Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Al-Shar' Grants Jerusalem TV Interview

TA0710193894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Oct 94

["Exclusive" interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Ehud Ya'ari in Washington on 7 October—recorded, in English with Hebrew subtitles; transcribed from the English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Al-Shar'] Our position is for a real peace, and I think the peoples of the region and the people in Israel, as well as in Syria, would like to see peace achieved as soon as possible. All right, it has already taken three years of negotiations. A few other months would be all right, but I think if this opportunity would slip away, no one would know what the future of the region would be. The other thing is that the faster the withdrawal would take place from the Golan, the faster the fruits of peace will appear. So there is no conflict of interests between Syria and Israel in delaying the withdrawal and in delaying the peace requirements. There is a common ground as far as this point is concerned, and I am sure that the people in Israel have been convinced that Syria is serious in its commitment to make real peace in the region.

[Ya'ari] I believe, Mr. Minister, people in Israel would like to see some more indications. What is left?

[Al-Shar'] What is left now is to see a peace agreement where it would embrace all these requirements that both countries would aspire to see. The moment that Syria and Israel would reach an agreement, this will give a deep assurance to the Israelis, to the Syrians, and to the whole peoples of the region that now peace is going to be realized. And this is the best and the most important step in the direction of convincing people that peace will pay off.

[Ya'ari] Mr. Minister, I believe—I am sure you will correct me if I am wrong, and I am often wrong—that this is the first time you fit like this with an Israeli. For me, I must admit, it is a very significant moment, and I am asking myself whether this is also an indication that you are making progress towards peace, that there is some movement or at least a change of atmosphere between Israel and Syria now.

[Al-Shar'] Well, it's true the atmosphere has already been changed. What President al-Asad said in Geneva was very significant and important, when he spoke about the peace of the brave, when he spoke about peaceful, normal relations to be established after the requirements of peace be achieved, and just recently President al-Asad made it clear before the nation when he spoke before the parliament in Syria committing himself to the requirements of peace, and that these requirements of peace should be objective, should be agreed upon. He also made it clear that peace for Syria is a strategic choice. So I think, from the Syrian point of view, we have done all what is necessary. And if you ask for more, as though you are burdening the peace with things that it cannot take and it might be counterproductive, because you have to be aware of the fact that a step taken by the Syrian leadership towards peace, it could be sometimes a negative thing and counterproductive among the Syrian public opinion. So a balanced approach, where we convince the two sides together that peace is coming and we are not wasting our time, these efforts would bring results.

The American role is essential and important because, at the moment, we should not deny the fact that the negotiations are taking place between President al-Asad and Prime Minister Rabin with the good auspices of Secretary Christopher. Secretary Christopher and his aides are conveying what they hear in Damascus to the Israeli side, and they bring from the Israeli side what they have been listening to there.

[Ya'ari] So it is not yet time for President al-Asad to meet with Prime Minister Rabin?

[Al-Shar'] No, because such dramatic theatrical appearances, in our view, are premature before reaching a peace agreement. Let us put things in the proper sequence. We do not want to have loopholes or snags here and there, which would be counterproductive. We want to move the whole people together to believe that peace is coming and this peace would be real and this peace would be comprehensive, and that is why I have the feeling that the people in Israel are convinced that without a peace agreement with Syria, there would be no peace in the region. At the same time, there could be no peace with Syria without a total withdrawal from the Golan. I mean, this is something that should not slip the minds of the public opinion anywhere, because just imagine if there was peace and a part of our occupied territory would remain under the Israeli control. I mean, what the reaction of the Syrian people would be. They would say: Well, this is capitulation, this is not peace, and they would not even think of dealing with the Israelis under any circumstances, even if the government would issue orders to them. So peace should be honorable, it should be just, it should be balanced. The security arrangements should not be imbalanced. It should meet the requirements of both sides. The security concern is very important for each side, and if you go back to the history of the conflict, you should not forget what happened to the Arabs, the millions of refugees who have been displaced and, at the same time, were replaced by new immigrants. Any Israeli citizen must think in an objective way to see the feeling of the other side in a human way, without prejudice.

[Ya'ari] If I may ask you, Mr. Minister, assuming the territorial dimension of the problem is resolved, what is your vision of peace or what we call in Israel: shalom? What is your vision of shalom?

[Al-Shar'] Our vision of peace in the region is very clear, and I have already answered a number of questions in

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this direction, and I said that when you have real peace in the region, meeting the objective requirements of peace—that is, applying both sides of the equation: land for peace—then this peace will be honorable. No unnecessary preconditions are dictated to the other side, and no necessary requirement to make peace real is denied by the other side, and then we will be heading to the right direction.

[Ya'ari] For example, the question that many Israelis ask themselves: When will a guy like me be able to take his wife to visit Palmyra?

[Al-Shar'] This is what I have been saying or responding to a number of questions, that when you reach a peace agreement, it will involve all these. You cannot talk about them in advance. It would be premature for me or even for an Israeli Government official to speak in advance about the results or the contents of the peace agreement, because these are for negotiations, and when the peace agreement is made public, I am sure that all the people there would feel absolutely satisfied, because this is what they have in mind and this is what they are going to get. The fruits of peace would be there. We have as much as you an interest in peace. It is not a one-sided requirement, because otherwise you will have no regional cooperation, and that is why if we are not participating in the regional cooperation at the moment, it is simply because the road to peace is not open yet, but when the road to peace is open and the commitment for a full withdrawal is clear, then we will participate in the regional multilateral talks, and we will be perhaps as active as anybody, perhaps more active even, because we have a stake in regional cooperation on a number of substantive issues.

[Ya'ari] I am sure, Mr. Minister, you have been following the heated debate in Israel: settlers on the Golan and others going on a hunger strike; some of Prime Minister Rabin's closest comrades in arms from the 1948 war going against him. It is a very, very emotional and loaded issue in Israel. I wonder what do you make of this turmoil in Israel concerning the negotiations with Syria?

[Al-Shar'] Well, this has a historic aspect as well as a current one. If I want to talk about the current one, I would say that the enemies of peace in Israel are not the majority, and it is understandable, though it is rejected by all those who seek peace, that the settlers, by nature, they are against peace, because they are occupying a land which is not theirs, and they know that peace would necessarily lead to the evacuation of these occupied territories. So they stand firm against peace, and they are armed even against the local population in the occupied territories. So we should not listen at all to those armed settlers who are working against peace. In the Arab countries, there are people who are against peace, and the only thing to isolate those who are against peace is to achieve peace, and this peace should be honorable, should be just, and should be comprehensive, because when the whole region is going to embrace peace and the fruits of peace, then the opposition or the opponents of peace will eventually diminish.

I wanted also to refer to the historic side of the conflict. The Israelis think that the Arab side was always the aggressor. This is not the reality. It might be true when it comes to the media, because the Israelis were very influential in the international media, especially the Western and American media. They changed the facts upside down. Just remember that Israel was able to establish a state of its own in Palestine, and it was at the expense of the Arabs. So that is the first hostile attitude, which in fact had to bring a lot of suffering and lot of agonies.

During the five wars—and I am now talking about Syria—Syria never shelled a civilian target in Israel, while the Israeli Army shelled many civilian targets during these wars and.... [20-second break in transmission]

We have not discussed yet an American presence. We would prefer a UN presence, in fact, but this point will be talked about when Secretary Christopher and Dennis Ross will come to the region.

[Ya'ari] Let me refer to Lebanon. The Syrian position all along is that negotiations between Israel and Lebanon should go parallel with the negotiations with Syria. In your opinion, can Israel expect to have a secure border with Lebanon and no attacks from that direction after we withdraw, as Israel has committed itself to, from what we call the security zone in southern Lebanon? Can we have peace and quiet there, in your opinion?

[Al-Shar'] I think we can have peace and quiet in the south of Lebanon if there was a commitment to withdraw from the south of Lebanon and that a peace agreement is to be reached. Then, in this case, the Lebanese resistance or Hizballah would have no ground to continue their resistance because their objective in this case, which is embraced by the people in Lebanon—because never think that a resistance movement can work in isolation of the people—but if peace is achieved, withdrawal would take place, the internationally recognized borders between Israel and Lebanon, I think the resistance movement would not continue—from a logical point of view and from a realistic point of view—any acts of resistance, any acts of violence. That is what we believe because of the complexity of the situation inside Lebanon. So many Lebanese are not in favor because they do not trust Israel, etc., etc. We say: Well, when we have reached an agreement between Syria and Israel, then it would be easily achieved between Lebanon and Israel, and in this case we will pave the way for a real peace in the north of Israel, where the idea of triggering a war or surprise attack would be totally eliminated, especially taking into consideration balanced security arrangements are agreed upon in these peace agreements.

[Ya'ari] Mr. al-Shar', both President Clinton and Prime Minister Rabin were speaking about Syria being the key

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to the comprehensive peace. Personally, I happen to agree with this notion. In what sense does an Israeli-Syrian peace treaty, hopefully in the near future, have this extra dimension of helping the comprehensiveness of the deal?

[Al-Shar'] I think this assumption is right. You know, there was an agreement between the PLO and Israel. There was also an agreement between Jordan and Israel, and previously there was an agreement between Egypt and Israel. Yet our region has not witnessed real peace. So it is a fact of life that without Syria, there would be no comprehensive, real peace in the region. This is no exaggeration. Syria throughout history has been considered as the Arab beating heart, and this in itself made every Syrian citizen feel responsible for the whole Arabs and for the whole region, in fact. And this responsibility, which is shouldered by the Syrians, must be appreciated. Let us now move in the positive direction, not in the negative direction. Let's use it in making peace, not in triggering hostilities. So great things in the history of nations can sometimes be used in a negative way, which we do not like to see anymore, and sometimes it can be used in the right direction, where it could produce peace, tranquillity, stability, and prosperity to the region. This is our objective now, and that is why when President al-Asad said our peace should be strategic or our choice for peace is strategic, this is exactly what he meant. We have to change the face of the region, to put the past behind us, to look for the future and, by doing so, I think slowly but gradually and steadily regional cooperation would give the results that we aspire to.

[Ya'ari] Thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

[Al-Shar'] Thank you very much.

Israeli Ambassador Comments

TA0710212794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Oct 94

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and head of the negotiating team with Syria, by Ehud Ya'ari and Ya'aqov Ahime'ir in Washington and Yisra'el Segal in the Jerusalem studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ya'ari] My interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', which we have just seen, was held today at the Hotel Washington, immediately after al-Shar's news conference. The negotiations on getting such an interview with Israel Television by a senior Syrian public official went on for over three months. In the past week, the negotiations continued with great intensity—not only on my part; others were also involved—until all the details were finalized. I was in no way restricted in the questions I presented, but I was told in general terms that the Syrian foreign minister does not like to respond to questions on personal subjects.

For the first time, the Syrian foreign minister granted us an organized interview, planned in detail, with a clear message: The Syrian foreign minister is directly addressing the people of Israel via Israel Television.

[Segal] Ehud, the impression given is that the contents of his remarks are tough but that the tone has been softened, that the music has been toned down.

[Ya'ari] I think we should listen to what Ambassador Rabinovich has to say. I will only say briefly that I think the main thing is that for the first time, Syria decided to appeal directly to the Israeli public via an Israeli journalist, not through questions thrown from a distance during some other event, but in a clear appeal to the Israeli people. At the same time, that does not mean that because Foreign Minister al-Shar' is sitting with Ehud Ya'ari he is immediately changing Syria's negotiating positions. He has not done that, but the tone he took is one of trying to win over and explain. Let us ask Ambassador Rabinovich how he sees things.

[Rabinovich] To tell the truth, I see things similar to you. From what I heard from the interview and from the impressions I gained from it, the tone has been moderated, while the contents have not been changed substantially. Yet we should look at the man himself with a degree of perspective. We all remember the famous scene in Madrid where he waved what he called his terrorist document in front of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. For that man to come, almost exactly three years later, to a personal interview with Israel Television is going a long way. What is three years in terms of time is much more than that in terms of significance. All that took a lot of work with the Syrians on our part and on the part of the Americans, and it is one of the moves in recent weeks that reflect the change in approach to the negotiations in general, but still not on the substance of the negotiations. It is a good sign, but we have to look at it within the overall context, which is first and foremost one of substance. Here the picture is one of movement—definitely a feeling of a certain movement forward—but it is coupled with a sense of restraint and an awareness that the gaps are still very significant.

[Ahime'ir] Amb. Rabinovich, Secretary Christopher will leave for the Middle East on Saturday night. Will this interview change the atmosphere, the substance of his new shuttle diplomacy in any way?

[Rabinovich] I will reply in a graphic way. The prime minister calls the negotiations a table with four legs: four issues of substance on which agreement must be reached before we feel we have concluded these negotiations. In Washington, somebody called public diplomacy the table's fifth leg. The table will not stand or collapse on the basis of that leg, but it is definitely part of the table. In other words, the negotiations will be moved forward during the secretary's visit if the Syrians draw closer to our positions as presented to them, because the gap between the Syrian response and our package is still too wide....

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[Segal, interrupting] Sorry for breaking in, but do you think that in what we have heard so far—and please keep it brief—there is a new, striking political message?

[Rabinovich] No. The concise and sharp answer is no, not from the point of view of the message. What he is said is what we usually hear from Syria. In this case, the medium was definitely the message.

[Segal] Does the fact that he mentioned the refugee issue, for example, underline what you have just said?

[Rabinovich] It just reminds us that Faruq al-Shar', Syria as a country, and the Ba'th as a regime reached this process after a very long journey, and they are still carrying part of that historical baggage. For the negotiations to conclude successfully, the Syrians must stop carrying that baggage on their backs.

[Ya'ari] Just one more thing: We have to listen to the music of the interview and not read the notes. The music is the main thing and not the notes.

[Segal] We will adopt your recommendation.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 7 October carries a similar live interview with Amb. Rabinovich in Washington by Gay Zohar. Asked whether the peace map between Israel and Syria has already been drawn, Rabinovich replies: "No. I want to tell you in no uncertain terms that no maps have been put on the table and no lines have been drawn on the map. I do not think that anybody is misleading the Israeli public on this issue. We are trying to attain the best possible arrangement and the best borderline for Israel." Asked whether Israel realizes that the Syrians will settle for nothing less than full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, Rabinovich answers: "No, Israel does not realize this. We know that this is what the Syrians are saying, but we are doing our best to achieve the best borderline for Israel."]

Jordanian-Israeli Talks Seen at 'Final' Stage

JN0910151394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Oct 94 p i

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Israeli and Jordanian negotiators will meet in the Red Sea cities of Elat and al-'Aqabah tomorrow to begin a two-week round of negotiations that sources believe could be the "ultimate or penultimate" round before a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan is finalised.

"We believe this could well be the ultimate or the penultimate round" an official source told the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity. "Anything reached by the 14 committees during this round or during the November round will form the annexes to a peace treaty between us and Israel," said the source.

This and other sources, who also held high hopes of Israel meeting Jordan's demands for the return of its occupied territory and rightful water shares in the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers, said that the Kingdom had received "assurances" that these two issues would be addressed during these two weeks "and we believe that an agreement will be reached either in this October round or the one in November."

Although the sources would not reveal specifics to substantiate their optimism, several interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES indicated His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan's meeting with U.S. and Israeli officials in the U.S. last week "were some of the most successful meetings between Jordanian and Israeli officials to date."

"After the meetings in New York and Washington it has become clear to everyone that we will have something signed by the end of this year," one source close to these talks told the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity.

Asked whether this would mean that Jordan and Israel would be signing subagreements leading to a peace treaty, the official source said: "Not a subagreement but a peace treaty."

Crown Prince Hasan, according to the sources, received U.S. and Israeli assurances during his trip that Jordan would retain a "prominent role" in the Middle East region that would ensure "its security and stability economically."

This role, which will shift from a pre-Gulf war regional security role to an economic one, will utilise Jordan's geographic location as well as its democratic atmosphere, the source said without elaboration.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani, in an interview in New York, told AL-RA'Y Arabic daily yesterday that while Jordan would insist on asserting its sovereignty over its territory and water, it also wanted assurances of economic benefits that would ensure that "the fruits of peace are felt by the man on the street."

Among the projected benefits for Jordan, to underline its new economic role, would be the establishment of a regional development bank in the Kingdom with a capital of $10 billion, one source revealed.

While this development bank would underscore the new role for Jordan as a democratic and stable country, sources say that much of what Jordan needs would come through "direct economic aid and assistance," a demand that "has been discussed and promised" during the Washington meetings.

Although most of the assurances received by the Kingdom were from U.S. officials, the sources maintain that Israel "has also given Jordan assurances that it would deliver on what we needed to push a peace treaty through."

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To Jordan this Israeli "promise to deliver" would basically mean a break-through in the boundaries and water negotiations as well as security arrangements that would not infringe on the Kingdom's sovereignty.

At least one source expected that the first break-through to be announced is over the water talks and specifically on the Kingdom's water shares in the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers.

"We expect that we will get something concrete on water," the source said without elaboration.

Dr. al-'Anani, in his AL-RA'Y interview, pointed out that Jordan "did not only want our rights in water but our rights in water in the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers because we want to establish our continued and secure rights in those two rivers."

Jordan and Israel, in their bilateral talks in Wadi al-'Arabah in June, had announced a joint document that included an Israeli recognition of the Jordanian rights in these two rivers. But in the rounds of talks that followed the negotiators failed to produce specific agreement on what Jordan's "rightful shares" translated into.

The boundaries issue, according to the sources, "will probably take a while longer to be completely resolved because of the technical details involved." According to these and negotiating sources, most of the time will be consumed by the technical task of demarcating the boundaries between Jordan and Israel.

Dr. al-'Anani yesterday pointed to this technical difficulty when asked whether he thought the Israeli withdrawal from occupied Jordanian territories would take a long time. "Why should it take a long time? Demarcating the boundaries may need a long time but withdrawal from these areas will not, except in some areas where there may be problems in the demarcation process," Dr. al-'Anani told AL-RA'Y.

If these "rights issues" are resolved in this round of negotiations, sources believe, the Kingdom is set to begin implementing a series of joint projects with Israel, as specified in the Jordan Rift Valley master plan, which could see Jordan becoming a "Central channel for economic projects in the area."

Jordanian-Israeli Talks Resume in Elat

JN1010182494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A new four-day round of Jordanian-Israeli bilateral negotiations began in Elat today to continue discussion of the issues of border, water, security, environment, energy, civil aviation, tourism, economy, and crossings. These topics were discussed during negotiations between the two sides in Tiberias on 12 September. The Elat negotiations will be followed by another round of talks in the city of al-'Aqabah next week. Details of the opening session of the Elat negotiations are in the following report from the radio's mission:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Khalid al-Sharman] A round of bilateral talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track began at the Neptune Hotel in the Israeli city of Elat in the Gulf of Aqaba at noon today. The Jordanian side was headed by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah and the Israeli side was headed by Elyaqim Rubenstein. The negotiations started in a general session in the presence of the members of both delegations. During the session, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah spoke. He said: We are looking forward to the next four days of serious and hopeful negotiations and we are also looking forward to hosting you in al-'Aqabah next week to resume these negotiations in the same degree of seriousness and hopefulness. He expressed his hope that Jordan and Israel would become a center in the Middle East after peace and coexistence are achieved between the two peoples, who are looking forward to a more developed and prosperous Middle East.

Dr. Elyaqim Rubenstein, head of the Israeli delegation, also spoke. He said that progress was made in all issues listed on the agenda, referring to some obstacles, which have to be eliminated and overcome. He said that the atmosphere of today's negotiations are better than it was in the past. He added: We hope that by the end of the next round of negotiations in al-'Aqabah, we will have overcome all the obstacles and brought views closer in order to clear the way for signing a peace treaty between the two sides.

Elat Mayor (Gabi Kadosh) welcomed the heads and members of the two negotiating delegations, thanking them for their efforts to entrench peace between the two states, asserting that peace is important, particularly to the residents of the cities of al-'Aqabah and Elat, because the region would reap the fruits of peace from development; establishing a fruitful cooperation in the issues of trade, tourism, and education; and attracting investment from all over the world.

Following the opening session, the negotiators joined the principal working committees and subcommittees, which will discuss issues pertaining to water, environment, energy, security, borders, as well as the issues of tourism, civil aviation, developing the Jordan Rift Valley, health, agriculture, crime, and drugs.

Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, told journalists upon arrival in Elat:

[Al-Tarawinah] As part of the ongoing negotiations, and as agreed since coming here, we will continue this round, God willing, for two weeks, the second week in al-'Aqabah, in order to discuss all issues subject to bilateral negotiations and listed on our joint agenda and subagendas of the three principal committees in charge of water, security, and territories and border, as well as other committees directly involved in the joint agenda and the Washington Declaration. We hope that during these two weeks of work we will make progress.

[Al-Sharman] A source in the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral talks said that joint technical committees will

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present their reports and the results of their work to the negotiating committees today. Observers attach growing importance to this round of talks in light of the statements by the Jordanian and Israeli sides following the trilateral meeting held at the White House last week between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The members of the Jordanian and Israeli delegations hinted at that time that the Elat-al-'Aqabah round would decide some issues or achieve major progress in the work of the principal committees. [end recording]

Delegates Comment

JN1010183594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiators have ended their first day of talks in this current round of negotiations, which included morning and evening sessions. During four days of talks in Elat in Israel and in al-'Aqabah, Jordanian and Israeli chief negotiators are hopeful this round will develop to reaching agreements on central topics in their joint agenda.

[Begin correspondent Khalid al-Sharman recording] During two sessions of the first day of talks, which were attended by U.S. delegates, negotiators carried on handling the topics on the common agenda and the subagenda of the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks. Committees and subcommittees discussed issues ranging from water and energy to environment, terminals, and passages. The United States is attending this round partly in meetings of the trilateral economic committee handling joint projects and fields of electricity, communications, and projects on developing Jordan Rift Valley. Both chief Jordanian and Israeli delegates expressed optimism that this round will be fruitful and conducive to concrete results, particularly on the issue of water.

Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, who heads the Jordanian delegation, told reporters at the end of today's meeting that both sides agree on the importance of continuing negotiations to tackle all topics on the agenda. Dr. al-Tarawinah said he is hopeful that this round of talks will contain serious negotiations, which will hopefully lead to real and tangible progress. The chief Jordanian delegate added that Jordan hopes for peace to prevail in this region putting an end to all forms of terrorism and conflict.

On his part, Dr. Elyaqim Rubenstein, who leads the Israeli delegation, told reporters that the talks have now reached a climax and entered a sensitive phase of positive negotiations. Dr. Rubenstein also stressed that progress has been achieved in different areas, describing the atmosphere of today's talks as better than the atmosphere of the previous round. The Chief Israeli delegate added that the boundary issue needs further work from both sides so as to maintain each country's rights and priorities. In this respect, Dr. Rubenstein said that serious work has started in Wadi al-'Arabah on border demarcation.

Tomorrow morning, the Jordanian and Israeli teams, joined by U.S. negotiators, will resume their meetings for further deliberations in what is expected to be an ultimate or penultimate round before a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel is finalized. [end recording]

Talks on West Bank-Gaza Elections Resume in Cairo

NC1010152694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct—The second round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on holding legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip resumed in Cairo today. The Palestinian delegation is headed by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local administration in the Palestinian National Authority, while the Israeli delegation is headed by General Dani Rothschild, coordinator general of the occupied territories. The talks were supposed to resume this morning but were postponed to this afternoon at the request of the Palestinian delegation.

Asked whether the Israeli delegation will carry with it answers to the working paper submitted by the Palestinian delegation during the first round of talks, a spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation said: We hope the answers carried by the Israeli delegation are positive.

The second round of talks is expected to last until Wednesday [12 October].

Negotiators Clash

NC1010213194 Paris AFP in English 2105 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 10 (AFP)—Israeli and Palestinian negotiators clashed Monday over whether Israel should have a say on who will be allowed to participate in elections to a self-rule council.

"We do not want in any circumstances any joint Palestinian-Israeli committee on the election issue," said Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who is heading the Palestinian team in talks here.

"It is not logical that in Palestinian elections there is a joint committee. This is a Palestinian issue alone," 'Urayqat added.

He said elections were "different" to economic and security issues, in which the two sides have joint committees in accordance with the Declaration of Principles on autonomy signed last year in Washington.

Israel and the PLO met here for a new round of talks aimed at setting out the modalities and a timetable for elections to an autonomy council which will run Palestinian civilian affairs in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

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Three days of talks last week failed to iron out arrangements for the poll.

Monday's clash came over "agreed supervision," a term used in the Declaration of Principles.

Israeli delegation head General Dani Rothschild defined it as "a process which starts on the day of the signing of the (election) agreement and escorting the whole (election) process until the inauguration of the council."

Israel should participate in a higher election committee to decide which Palestinians "can vote, and who can be elected," Rothschild said.

The Jewish state has set out three criteria on who should not be allowed to stand for election— Palestinians who call for Israel's destruction, supporters of terrorism and those who promote racism on their election platform.

"We are entitled in a joint committee to see that no platform will help one of those three elements," Rothschild said.

'Urayqat argued that "agreed supervision does not necessarily mean it should be Palestinian-Israeli. It means it could be an agreed-upon supervision."

The Palestinians are to start drawing up electoral rolls from Sunday in preparation for the elections, which they hope to hold before the end of the year.

The two sides also appeared to clash over the structure of the self-rule council.

A working paper which the Palestinians presented to the Israelis Monday, "at first glance it looked like a totally different structure" from one agreed last week, Rothschild said. He refused to elaborate.

Israel wants a small council with 20 to 30 members which will simply run limited Palestinian autonomy while the PLO wants a 100- member body resembling a parliament.

The talks opened here amid Israeli fury over an attack claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Jerusalem which killed two people and wounded 13.

Hamas is one of Palestinian hardline groups opposed to autonomy, which was launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

Rothschild said his delegation was "sad and angry about what happened ... but the fact that we are here shows that we are committed to continue negotiations."

The current round of talks will resume Tuesday and wind up on Wednesday.

Differences Remain on Border Procedures

TA1010061694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians and Israel did not sign an agreement on border crossing procedures at the Allenby Bridge and Rafah checkpoints. Several problems were resolved during yesterday's meetings at the Erez checkpoint but some differences still remain and these will be referred to the political echelon.

Another meeting will be held within a few days, apparently in order to sign the agreement.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Urges Iraq To Withdraw Forces

NC0710220694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2131 GMT 7 Oct 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has announced that the Arab League is very concerned about the threat to Kuwait that was evident in yesterday's official Iraqi statement.

In a statement issued this evening, 'Abd-al-Majid demanded that the Iraqi Government abide by the Arab League Charter, exercise self-restraint, and put an end to the current escalation that is complicating the situation, threatening the region's security, and posing further risks to it. He noted that the region is still suffering from the repercussions of the 1990 crisis.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid urged Iraq to withdraw all its forces and return them to their original positions.

He added that he is communicating with the Kuwaiti Government to reassert the Arab League's position, which backs Kuwait's security and sovereignty and is willing to stand by its side against any threat to its national security.

The Arab League secretary general noted that he is also contacting all other Arab countries to contain and calm the situation and prevent further deterioration in this vital part of the world.

Abd al-Majid Holds News Conference

NC0910164594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has once again called on the Iraqi Government to show self-restraint and refrain from escalating the situation, something that could threaten and endanger the security and safety of the region.

In a news conference he held today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid ruled out a repetition of the events of August 1990. He emphasized that no one accepts aggression by an Arab country against another Arab country. He praised the Egyptian efforts toward resolving the crisis, adding that Egypt's role underscores its leadership in Arab affairs and its contribution toward defending Arab causes.

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Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that he is in close touch with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and officials of other Arab states to contain and calm down the situation and avoid further deterioration in that vital part of the Arab world.

The Arab League secretary general called on Iraq to pull all its troops back to their positions and hoped that things would not escalate any further. He noted that during his meeting with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings he did not sense any intention toward escalation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the statement issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, which set 10 October as a deadline for adopting a position, as well as the following troop movements toward the Kuwaiti border, will further escalate the situation, particularly since a decision on renewing the sanctions by the Security Council is scheduled for 14 October. The Arab League secretary general did not rule out the possibility that the current tension on the [Kuwaiti-Iraqi] borders will prolong the sanctions imposed on Iraq and the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that there is no plan to hold an urgent meeting of the Arab League Council at the present time, noting that no Arab country has requested such a meeting.

Urges Arab Solidarity

LD1110043894 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 0330 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat Abd al-Majid by unidentified correspondent; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Good morning Doctor.

[Abd al-Majid] Good morning. Welcome.

[Correspondent] Following the recent Iraqi regime threats, do you believe pan-Arab security has totally failed?

[Abd al-Majid] Not at all. The meaning I give to pan-Arab security is Arab legitimacy. Pan-Arab security was very much apropos to the stance taken in 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait. [passage omitted] I believe pan-Arab security was represented by Arab legitimacy and is still represented by this same legitimacy through the Arab League's stance expressed in the statement issued 7 October.

[Correspondent] What about Arab solidarity in the coming period?

[Abd al-Majid] This is required. Arab solidarity suffered a big crisis in August 1990 and we must work for the return of Arab solidarity. This made me, some time ago, call for an Arab-Arab reconciliation. What happened on Thursday and Friday [6-7 October] came as a shock to us and we had hoped not to see it happen. This is why I defined the Arab League stance, and I believe this was the stance of all the Arab countries regarding the Iraqi forces' presence on the Kuwaiti borders and the measures taken by the Iraqi Government against Kuwait. All this obviously threatens Arab solidarity, which we were aspiring for and harms it considerably.

Meeting of Damascus Declaration Members Requested

NC0710214894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2134 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 7 Oct (MENA)—Kuwait today called for an urgent meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member countries to discuss developments in the wake of the recent Iraqi threats.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, made a telephone call to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal this evening to make this request.

Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry sources have reported that contacts are being made among officials from the foreign ministries of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states to hold an urgent meeting in the next two days to discuss the Iraqi threats to Kuwait.

'Altercation' Reported Over GCC Boycott Decision

NC0810124994 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Salah Bidiwi and Ashraf Khalil]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-SHA'B has learned that a sharp altercation ensued among the Arab foreign ministers who met last Saturday, 1 October, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York. The altercation ensued in the wake of a sudden announcement by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] to end the economic boycott of Israel.

The Cordon States foreign ministers voiced their objection. One of them described the GCC decision as a stab in the back and a betrayal of the Arab negotiator, who has been robbed of the last weapon vis-a-vis the Israeli nuclear threats. Another foreign minister noted the Saudi role in adopting that decision, describing it as part of a deal to curb American pressure on the Kingdom concerning the issue of freedom and human rights violations monitored by the relevant international organizations.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal immediately tried to deny the existence of such a deal. He played down the significance of the decision, claiming that the

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boycott was futile and that Israel had already managed to overcome its negative impact.

Arab diplomatic circles in Cairo received the decision with surprise and astonishment. Speaking for the Arab League [AL], its official spokesman Counselor Tal'at Hamid said the League does not acknowledge the GCC decision, affirming that it is only up to the Ministerial Council, which originally adopted the boycott decision, to end that boycott. An official AL source denied that any of the six GCC ministers had raised the issue of the boycott during the recent AL council session (the 102d). The sources deduced that the United States applied heavy pressure, distinctly noting that the GCC decision was adopted in the wake of a meeting in New York between the six GCC ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mufid Shihab, Cairo University president and chairman of the Arab Affairs and National Security Committee at the Consultative Council, regretted the GCC decision to lift the secondary and tertiary boycott imposed on companies dealing with the Zionist entity. Speaking to reporters on Saturday evening, Dr. Shihab explained that the boycott is a political weapon Arabs are using as an instrument of pressure against Israel before the settlement.

Former Egyptian Defense Minister Amin Huwaydi told BBC that the GCC decision to lift the boycott of Israel partially accords with the regrettable Arab reality. He described the decision as a formality, since the boycott is actually as good as lifted, as he put it, even if Israel exaggerates its impact. He explained that Arabs in practice impose no restrictions on sale, negotiations, purchase, or visits. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO: 'Extreme Concern' Over Iraq-Kuwait Situation

LD0810185194 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1722 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 8 Oct (SPA)—The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] has expressed extreme concern over the serious developments in the situation between Iraq and Kuwait following reports that Iraq was moving units toward the Kuwaiti border.

In a statement issued today, the ICO called on Iraq to avoid any escalation liable to return the region to the atmosphere which prevailed due to the Iraqi aggression and occupation against Kuwait and the resulting serious damage to the unity of the Islamic nation.

In the statement issued by ICO Secretary General Hamed Algabid, the ICO reiterated that it adhered on principle to the support, sovereignty, unity and peace of Kuwaiti territory as well as that of the other states of the region, and to the need for Iraq to comply fully with [UN] Security Council resolutions, including the resolution related to the demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait borders.

At the same time the ICO expressed its concern over the suffering to which the Iraqi people were subjected because of the failure of the Iraqi authorities to comply with legitimate international resolutions, particularly the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The ICO stressed that security and stability would only effectively return to the region if Iraq complied with all international resolutions.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says No Military Crisis Expected in Gulf

TA0910124194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat assesses that Saddam Husayn's moves will not develop into a confrontation or a military crisis. 'Arafat believes that Saddam's moves are part of a political bargaining process aimed at lifting the boycott on Iraq. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 'Arafat made these remarks to a MAPAM [United Workers Party] delegation which met him in Gaza today.

MAPAM Chairman Hanan Erez told our correspondent that the delegation members told 'Arafat Israel should not impose limitations on Palestinian political movements that want to participate in the elections.

Palestinians Said 'Cautious' on Kuwait Situation

NC0910102794 Paris AFP in English 1009 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 9 (AFP)—The Palestinians, who backed Baghdad during the 1991 Gulf War, were taking a cautious line Sunday [9 Oct] in the new buildup of tension over Kuwait and called for a peaceful solution.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman refused to comment on the massing of Iraqi troops near the border with Kuwait.

"We don't have any official reaction yet," said spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudaynah.

However Nabil Sha'th, the "minister" for international cooperation said Saturday the Palestinian self-rule authority was watching developments.

He told reporters after a weekly cabinet session that the authority was "greatly concerned" and urged a "peaceful settlement".

Education "minister" Yasir 'Amr added: "we did not discuss the issue." [passage omitted]

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'First Official Reaction' Reported

JN0910203694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first official Palestinian reaction to the developments in the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has said that the Palestinian people, represented by their leadership, do not want to see the Gulf situation explode again. He stressed the Palestinian National Authority's strong desire to reach a peaceful solution to all of the problems resulting from the Gulf war.

Sha'th added that a true peace in the Gulf—one which safeguards the interests and security of fraternal Kuwait and restores a normal and secure life to Iraq and its fraternal people—is in the interest of both peace in the region and the whole world.

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, has said that it is no longer acceptable for the region to remain in a situation of tension and terror, and that peoples' destinies cannot be dealt with in this way.

Mahmud 'Abbas added that the new state of tension between the United States and Iraq comes at a time when we expected differences to be settled at the UN Security Council, particularly the issue of demarcating the border between the two countries and lifting the blockade imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people who have and still are suffering a great deal.

'Arafat Spokesman on Avoiding Clashes in Gulf

NC1010150594 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 10 (AFP)—The Palestinian Self-Rule Authority called on Arab and Western countries to prevent a showdown in the Gulf and urged Arabs to reunite Monday.

The appeal by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman came as the United States built up troops in the Gulf region in response to Iraq's reported massing of more than 80,000 soldiers near the border with Kuwait.

"The Palestinian Authority is following with concern news of renewed tension in the Gulf," spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudayna said in a statement.

"We hope there will be no war or armed confrontation in order to maintain stability in the area.

"We ask the United States, the Arab world and the European countries to bear this in mind."

The PLO backed Baghdad after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait and paid dearly for it when oil-rich Arab states sacked tens of thousands of Palestinian workers and cut funds to the organization.

On Sunday, Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian Authority's cooperation minister, set the new PLO stand by calling for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"We want to reconfirm the Authority's intent to pursue serious, sincere efforts to restore Arab solidarity and to solve all problems," Abu-Rudayna said.

'Arafat meanwhile flew to Morocco to attend the funeral of Khalid al-Hasan, a senior PLO official who died Friday.

Sha'th Previews Crossing Talks, Views Gulf

JN0810224594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, today stated that the Palestinians and Israelis are due to meet tomorrow to discuss the safe crossings issue between Gaza and Jericho.

Following the end of the meeting of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] Government, chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat, he said that the ministers discussed many issues, foremost of which is the crossings agreement that the Israelis postponed signing for a whole week. He added that the agreement on the safe crossings will be signed tomorrow only if the Israelis approve the proposal he presented to General Rothschild. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Iraqi military buildup on the Kuwaiti border, Minister Sha'th said: We are very anxious. He also expressed his hope that these issues will be resolved peacefully. He also said President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during the latter's visit to the region and will discuss with him the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, outstanding issues, and issues pertaining to donor countries.

The ministers took special interest in the prisoners' issue and stressed that this issue is a focus of attention of the PNA and that the PNA will exert every effort to obtain the release of all the prisoners very quickly.

Comments on Talks

JN1010150594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, "minister of planning and international cooperation," by correspondent Fathi Barqawi on 10 October; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Barqawi] Good morning, Dr. Nabil Sha'th.

[Sha'th] Good morning.

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[Barqawi] You led the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with the Israeli delegation at the Erez crossing. Could you tell us about the meeting's agenda?

[Sha'th] There is only one issue; namely, the international crossings and passageways. We will continue to discuss this issue until we reach a result. I have been leading these negotiations for two months. We have taken a long time and regrettably we have not reached an agreement. There were 38 points on which we differ. We resolved 32 but there are six more points which we have not resolved yet.

[Barqawi] Therefore, these are hard negotiations?

[Sha'th] They are hard negotiations?

[Barqawi] What are the problems that have not been solved so far?

[Sha'th] There still are the measures concerning the passage of Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and his companions. There is still the question of the tariffs which they [the Israelis] collected over the past four months. We have not obtained our share yet.

[Barqawi] We are in great need of every penny.

[Sha'th] Indubitably. We estimate that they collected no less that $2 million during this period, particularly since it was the summer season. There is the question of collecting the tariffs from those who cross. We want a Palestinian bank to collect them and they want to collect them directly.

There is also a point on giving us better terms on the Rafah crossing—terms that will be better than what we have at the Allenby Bridge in accordance with the Gaza and Jericho agreement. They stall on these terms. There are certain issues that concern the security of the crossings. We have not been able to solve these six problems.

[Barqawi] Yesterday's meeting lasted several hours. How many points did you resolve?

[Sha'th] We had 38 points of difference and reached agreements on 32 of them.

[Barqawi] This is good.

[Sha'th] Yes, we wanted to reach agreement last night. We wanted to sign the agreement today. But we will have to meet again tomorrow in the hope that they will bring new instructions. We do not want or imagine that this can be postponed any longer, given that our situations are not the same. We are waiting to reach an agreement but our people suffer at these crossings, an issue which, apart from the issue of our detainees, is a big point of friction. If we do not solve these issues, the state of peace will remain tense.

[Barqawi] What are the most important things you agreed on?

[Sha'th] There are many detailed points.

[Barqawi] Can we know the most important points?

[Sha'th] We have now agreed on the Palestinian role at these crossings. There will be around 100 Palestinian officers and employees at the crossings. They will be responsibile for the crossing of Palestinians and will protect them, especially Gaza and Jericho residents, from Israeli interference during most of the crossing time. Of course the West Bank residents will also be covered soon. Those who cross the Rafah or the Allenby crossing point will notice numerous inspection points between the [Allenby] Bridge and the crossing and between the crossing and the Jericho area or in Rafah between the Egyptian crossing and the Palestinian crossing, now manned by Israelis, until reaching the first roadblock at the entrance of Rafah.

Today we agreed to end all these roadblocks. There will be only one joint roadblock at a point close to the wall of the crossing itself. The roadblocks delayed citizens for many hours. There will be no Israeli roadblock between Jericho and the bridge or between Rafah and the Egyptian crossing point. There will only be a joint roadblock manned by an Israeli officer and a Palestinian officer, who will make sure the traveler has the proper papers for his travel.

We also improved the financial agreement. They wanted three-fourths of the money they collect. We have agreed on a 50-50 share. They will assume responsibility for financing construction, development, and maintenance. We are responsible only for the wages of the Palestinian employees. We will get half of the revenues, which will amount to about $10 million next year.

[Barqawi] This is an achievement.

[Sha'th] Undoubtedly.

[Barqawi] Dr. Sha'th, what powers will the Palestinian officers and employees have on the crossings?

[Sha'th] Big responsibilities in all fields: Customs, passports, security crossings, veterinary, hygene, as well as adiministrative measures. All of these will be the responsibility of the Palestinians. We also agreed to stop using the Egged Bus Company which now takes the citizens—who have no chice but to take its bus—to the Rafah crossing. Within one month of signing the agreement, this bus service will be replaced by a Palestinian bus company. We will also allow the passage of taxis and within two months, vehicles, buses and transport vehicles will be allowed.

We hope that before the year is out, a bus will go directly from Gaza to Cairo and from Jericho to Amman.

[Barqawi] This will spare the people much discomfort.

[Sha'th] Undoubtedly.

[Barqawi] My last question is: When will the Palastinians see Palestinian officers at the crossings?

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[Sha'th] Shortly, God willing. I know that they [Israelis] are stalling. They examine every point carefully. The crossings agreement now consists of 70 pages of details. Neverthelees, I hope that we will reach an agreement soon, God willing.

[Barqawi] We will always prove that we have a capacity to wait. Thank you, Dr. Nabil Sgha'th.

Al-Husayni Condemns Jerusalem 'Terrorist' Attack

TA1010092794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni this morning published a condemnation of yesterday's terrorist attack in Jerusalem. He said that any act of terrorism against civilians, whether Arab or Jewish, should be condemned. Only the promotion of peace will prevent the recurrence of such incidents, al-Husayni said.

PA Issues Statement

JN1110104894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Palestinian National Authority has stated the following:

The Palestinian Authority [PA] has followed with grave concern and regret the bloody incidents that took place in West Jerusalem at a time when the PA is exerting all possible efforts to establish the bases of peace and mutual confidence in this region.

The Palestinian National Authority stresses its declared policy of condemning all actions, regardless of their type or source, in which blood is shed. It also condemns the killings that are aimed at escalating the situation in order to wreck the peace process and obstruct the implementation of the Palestinian agreement. The PA stresses that while it condemns these killings, it underscores that these actions will not deter it from continuing its unflinching efforts to reach a just, durable, and comprehensive peace through peaceful means and the international legitimacy.

The PA calls on the Israeli Army to stop firing at Palestinian citizens in Hebron, Ramallah, and elsewhere in order to eradicate the causes of violence and counter-violence. The Palestinian National Authority finds strange and condemns the attempts by some to implicate the national security forces in this operation. It confirms its adherence to the agreements struck with the Israeli Government. It will defend these agreements and will work on stopping the killings in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The PA is aware that these actions are being clearly exploited by peace opponents on both sides. Therefore, the Palestinian and Israeli peace proponents should concentrate their efforts to further promote the foundations of peace in this region.

Hamas To Continue 'Heroic Operations'

LD1010182494 Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, al-Tumur [Oct] 10 (JANA)—The movement Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has confirmed it will go along with its heroic operations in all parts of occupied Palestine until the liberation of Palestine.

In a statement circulated today to mark the fourth anniversary of Al Aqsa massacre 1990, Hamas announced that resistance against the occupation will go on and indicated that it is an affair approved by all religions and conventions in response to the occupation and bloody massacres.

The statement held the terrorist Israelis responsible for the operations of liquidation committed against the Palestinians and the violations for their legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

'Arafat on Jerusalem as Capital

AU0710203394 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1800 GMT 7 Oct 94

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by ARD correspondent in Tel Aviv Friedrich Schreiber; place and date not given—in English, with superimposed German translation; recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Schreiber] When you returned to you home country on 1 July, German television showed a documentary on your political life. It started with the moment when you crossed the border to the Gaza Strip, and we showed you when you gave your speech before the regional assembly in Gaza. We had the impression at that time that you were very happy and full of emotion. What did you feel when you came back to your home country 100 days ago?

['Arafat] I thought at that moment that something very important was happening, a historical event, a peace of the brave was coming about. I saw a very important signal for our people toward their independence and a Palestinian state.

[Schreiber] What do you consider your greatest political achievement during these first 100 days?

['Arafat] Palestine and the Palestinian people have become a fact on the political and geographical map of the Middle East. We are the crux of all crises in the Middle East, and we are the most important factor in finding a solution to the problems of the Middle East conflict.

[Schreiber] What were the most difficult problems for the Palestinian autonomy government in these 100 days.

['Arafat] You will remember that many people did not believe that we would be able to keep the situation under

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control. We have proved that the Palestinian people are able in every respect to keep their country under control, that we are able to create stability, security, and order everywhere in Gaza, as you can see for yourself.

[Schreiber] Do you receive enough aid funds to pay the salaries of your government employees, doctors, nurses, and policemen?

['Arafat] No, unfortunately I must say that we are getting less than we were promised. However, we will cover the deficit from our tax revenues.

[Schreiber] In your government, there are Ministries of Economics, Planning, Housing Construction, and City Planning. Do they have enough plans to start work as soon as the international funds are received?

['Arafat] Yes, we have started. However, regrettably, I must say that all our infrastructure was completely destroyed—ranging from drinking water facilities and sanitation to housing, schools, hospitals, electricity, television and radio stations, and telecommunications. Everything, even the railroads, were dismantled during the occupation. The railroads—can you imagine?

[Schreiber] You had to agree with Israel some very complicated provisions for the security of Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip. Are you satisfied with the implementation of the security provisions?

['Arafat] You know, I cannot say that I am satisfied. But we are trying to do our best to overcome all the obstacles.

[Schreiber] My last question: I do not want to broach the very complicated issue of Jerusalem. But I would like to ask you, very personally, whether you believe that you can go to Jerusalem in the near future to pray in the Al-Aqsa Mosque?

['Arafat] Yes, without any doubt. Do not forget that Jerusalem—and I mean the holy city by this—was occupied in 1967. That is why it forms part of the Palestinian and Arab territories to which UN Resolution 242 applies. UN Resolution 904, the latest UN resolution on this issue, which was passed by the UN Security Council four months ago, also mentions all the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. UN Resolution 242 and all the following resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly stipulate that our rights in Jerusalem must be taken into account.

Therefore, we have stipulated a special clause for Jerusalem in the agreements that we concluded with Israel in Cairo and Washington. The final status of the holy city must be discussed by the Israelis and Palestinians as soon as possible, not later than 1996. At the same time, the Israelis must protect all holy sites of the Palestinian Christians and Muslims. Until then, we have the right to take care of the holy sites and the Palestinian institutions in the holy city.

Finally, our people living in the holy city must have an opportunity to take part in the coming elections of the autonomy government. Jerusalem is part of our territories that have been occupied since 1967. We are looking forward to having the holy city as our capital very soon. I say it again—this is in accordance with the UN resolutions, international law, and the agreements concluded.

[Schreiber] Does this mean that you want a Jerusalem that is divided into two?

['Arafat] There must be no walls between East Jerusalem and West Jerusalem, no Berlin Wall. Jerusalem will be a symbol of the peace of the brave, of coexistence between two peoples—the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Qaddumi on Self-Rule, PLO Charter, Opposition

NC0810084894 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 9

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, by 'Abdallah al-Sinnawi; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Sinnawi] From your reserved position on the Gaza-Jericho agreement and, at the same time, your position as chief of Palestinian diplomacy, how do you evaluate the agreement after a full year of experience?

[Qaddumi] I will tell you frankly and from my position as a Palestinian official that our harvest has been "extremely meager." The challenges and threats are numerous. In its conduct and practices, the Israeli enemy lacks credibility. It procrastinated for more than 5 months over the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. According to the Declaration of Principles, Israel was supposed to withdraw completely from those areas. It is known that the area of Jericho was set at 345 square kilometers in 1932, at the time of the British mandate. The Israelis, however, first insisted on a withdrawal only from Jericho city (26 square kilometers), and after awful negotiations the area was increased to 56 square kilometers. No agreement over this has been reached yet, and the problem of the Jericho area is still pending. This is only one example of Israel's lack of credibility. More astonishing, however, is Israel's insistence on considering the crossing points as part of its internal security under the pretext that they are responsible for foreign security! [as published]. The Israelis want to impose control on the Palestinians under the pretext of ensuring Israeli security. But this is a weak pretext. It is known that they signed a peace agreement with fraternal Egypt at Camp David, and recently signed a declaration of principles with Jordan. So, there is no meaning to the talk about foreign threats or the need to maintain security. All this harms Palestinian sovereignty. There is no confidence in Israeli policies or in the Rabin government's credibility.

[Al-Sinnawi] What has happened over the past year alone undermines confidence. Instead of taking confidence-building measures, the Israelis did exactly the

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opposite: They closed Gaza and the West Bank and isolated Jerusalem. In an exposed collusion between settlers and senior Army officers, the Israelis also perpetrated the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. They also expanded settlements. They are watching all our telecommunications, rejecting our internal independence, and deliberately insulting us. Where, then, is this "meager Palestinian harvest"?

[Qaddumi] The experience is still crawling along; there has been no achievement to speak of, whether in maintaining security or in getting rid of some negative aspects introduced by the occupation and which have harmed the Palestinian public. We still lack an organizational structure of establishments and ministries. We are supposed to do this quickly because achieving economic development and meeting the needs and requirements of our people needs effective establishments. We are starting from scratch in our effort to build the Palestinian institutions. The Israeli enemy—and I hope you will record this characterization—destroyed the Palestinian infrastructure.

[Al-Sinnawi] Abu-al-Lutf, does this "meager harvest" justify the concessions that the Palestinians have made?

[Qaddumi] I have stated my views and reservations on the agreement. The Israeli Government is trying to dictate its own interpretation of the Declaration of Principles and uses all forms and means of pressure to translate its own interpretation into fact. Israel does not abide by the texts of the agreements it signs. For example, the Israelis continue to oppose joint control over the border crossings although the Cairo Agreement specifies that there should be joint supervision.

[Al-Sinnawi] Are they doing this on security pretexts, as usual?

[Qaddumi] Yes.

[Al-Sinnawi] This begs the question: Whose security?

[Qaddumi] Israel has nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Its military arsenal is a threat to Arab security. I regret to say that it recently acquired F-18's, the most sophisticated aircraft in the U.S. Air Force, and intercontinental ballistic missiles. Meanwhile the United States, the chief sponsor of the peaceful settlement, is dragging its feet and refrains from adopting a firm position or playing an effective role on the Palestinian negotiating track. It left us to negotiate alone with the Israelis, refraining from using the efforts it promised to make before the Madrid conference. We went to the conference only because the United States issued the invitations. It is the only country able to put pressure on Israel.

[Al-Sinnawi] Speaking of the United States and its role, what will you do during the current UN General Assembly session, especially after U.S. representative Madeleine Albright submitted a memorandum urging that no discussions be held over the UN resolutions pertaining to refugees, settlements, and Jerusalem?

[Qaddumi] According to Albright's memorandum, these issues are being negotiating between the Palestinians and the Israelis. We, however, have rejected the memorandum and the justifications it cites. The PLO Executive Committee chairman and the head of the Political Department issued instructions to give a decisive answer to the U.S. memorandum because we have not yet negotiated over Jerusalem, the refugees, and the settlements. Israel has failed to keep its promises not to make any demographic, geographic, or structural changes in the occupied Palestinian territories or to leave intact the economic, cultural, social, and educational institutions, and Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem.

[Al-Sinnawi] What will the fate of the agreement be, in light of these Israeli policies and Israel's continued efforts to establish new faits accomplis that are favorable to it? What scenarios do you foresee?

[Qaddumi] We must not forget that Israel claims that it won the Palestinian territories that it now occupies when it seized them from Egypt and Jordan in the 1967 war. Some of Israel's allies say that these are disputed territories and their fate must be determined by negotiations. However, the basis on which the peace process was started contradicts these claims because UN Security Council Resolution 242 provides for full Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

[Qaddumi continues] (Former U.S. Secretary of State) Baker kept telling our negotiating delegation that East Jerusalem is part of our occupied territories and that the aim of the settlement is to set up a provisional self-government that is less than independence but more than autonomy "because autonomy is for minorities and there are twice the number of our people as Israelis." The other principle for the settlement also stipulates "land for peace." This is why we are insisting on the principle of withdrawal. But they did not comply when they withdrew from "Gaza-Jericho" and some of the Israeli forces have remained there. Withdrawal means that Israel should not return to the territories it has withdrawn from and does not have the right to ask to return to them. The identity of the areas it has withdrawn from is Palestinian and the Palestinian people have the right to exercise sovereignty over them. Our urgent daily demands should continue to be the removal of the settlements, the return of Jerusalem, and the refugees' return to their homes. This is the stand we insist on and call for in the political department. As to Israel, it is planning to prolong the transitional period. It is trying to contain the West Bank and the Gaza Strip while simultaneously working to thwart any Palestinian or international attempt to grant independence to the Palestinian people so that it can exercise its sovereignty over its territories. The reason is that the strategic Israeli planning seriously regards the West Bank as important for the following four reasons:

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First, because it is a geographic region for more settlement.

Second, because of its natural borders with Jordan.

Third, because of its underground waters.

Fourth, because of the holy, historical places (specifically Jerusalem) in it.

For the same reasons, Israel is also seeking the coexistence of Palestine in "Gaza-Jericho" with the illegal settlements and believes that such a plan could lead to peace and stability in the region. The Palestinian people cannot accept Israel's attempts to entrench its occupation and presence. We know for sure that our struggle with Israel will be a long one. There are differences between the settlement on the Palestinian track and that on the other Arab tracks. The latter want a solution that leads to disengagement with Israel. But our Palestinian track is something else altogether. Thus you can see that the Palestinian struggle will continue for many years, using other means until it leads us to securing the refugees' return to their homeland and houses, including the (1948) Palestine. We must at this point praise Egypt's stand, which has always backed the Palestinian demands.

[Al-Sinnawi] But is this view not consistent with the clauses and the means of implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles?

[Qaddumi] Yes. This is why I expressed reservations on the Declaration of Principles. But my responsibility as the head of the political department makes it incumbent on me to comply with the Palestinian constants. I will mention all this in the political report that I will present to the Palestine National Council [PNC] when it meets.

[Al-Sinnawi] When? Where? Gaza, for example?

[Qaddumi] I do not know when but we are in agreement that the PNCs should not meet under Israeli guns in Gaza.

[Al-Sinnawi] What is your stance on Yitzhaq Rabin's request to abolish or amend certain clauses in the PNC Charter?

[Qaddumi] We all refuse to discuss any alteration to the PNC clauses at Rabin's request. This cannot take place until after a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and until after reaching a comprehensive and fair "Arab-Israeli" peace. The preludes to this peace are still absent. Rabin's request is intended to force the Palestinian people to obey the Israeli will, which we reject and resist. The PNC Charter does not provide for the destruction of Israel. In 1988, and before this settlement, the PNC called for a solution based on establishing two states—a Palestinian Arab state and a Jewish state, in accordance with international law. Why is Israel demanding that we amend the PNC Charter and what is the goal behind this other than total Palestinian obedience?

[Al-Sinnawi] What would you expect if the PNC were to meet now?

[Qaddumi] It would abrogate the "Gaza-Jericho" agreement immediately.

[Al-Sinnawi] What would happen then?

[Qaddumi] Things would get messed up and all calculations changed.

[Al-Sinnawi] You have contacted the opposition groups. What are the most important results of these contacts?

[Qaddumi] I held contacts and lengthy dialogues with all groups. Our agreement was clear: They oppose this agreement and have numerous reservations about it. We are ready to coordinate with them at the highest level because they are part of the PLO and of the Palestinian national movement. They must be acquainted with all information relating to the Palestinian issue. There is consensus on two issues: First, to refrain from inducing the Palestinian community in the occupied territory to stage strikes or engage in internecine fighting and, second, to remain committed to the PNC resolutions and oppose its convocation in Gaza under the occupation.

[Al-Sinnawi] Are 'Arafat's pledges to guarantee the security of Israelis and discipline opponents in line with the Palestinian agreements?

[Qaddumi] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is not responsible for providing security outside the self-rule areas. Perhaps we differ on the methods but we agree on the goals: ending the Israeli occupation and consolidating the Palestinian people's control of their territory.

[Al-Sinnawi] What is your explanation for the donor nations' refraining form paying the promised aid to fund the development projects in the self-rule areas?

[Qaddumi] Before the National Authority [al-sultah al-wataniyah] was established and after its meeting on 1 October 1993, the donor nations asked us to establish a mechanism through which funds could be transferred to the Palestinian people. The Executive Committee decided to establish the Palestinian central economic council. We began dealing with the World Bank in its capacity as go-between secretariat between us and the donor nations to transfer funds and establish the required projects. This mechanism indeed made viability studies and defined its priorities. The World Bank helped us through the teams it sent to the occupied territories to examine the situation. A sum of $726 million was earmarked for 1994. This amount covers the cost of ministries, police, and employees' salaries in Gaza as well as municipalities, schools, universities, and hospitals. Nothing worth mentioning has been given for these projects and the primary reason is political. Israel is placing obstacles in the way of these projects and is setting conditions on the transfer of funds and projects in Gaza and Jericho. Regrettably, Israel appointed itself a

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member on the financial committee of the donor nations although we do not need its membership because it is aiming to share the donations with us. Also, it is creating pretexts to hinder meetings of the donor nations to achieve its goals.

PLO's 'Abbas Urges Closer Arab-Russian Relations

MM0710152694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Oct 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has stressed the importance of the revival of Russia's influential role in the peace process in the Middle East. He urged the Arab states to establish strong relations with Russia to bring about a balance in the international equation so that U.S. positions will become more balanced.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Abu-Mazin said that Russia is in the process of setting up a representation office in Jericho, and that a decision has been taken to look for premises for this office.

Abu-Mazin, who had returned from Moscow after a visit during which he held important talks with Russian officials, pointed out that the Russian role in the peace process will return in strength to bring about the lost balance in the current negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis.

In this connection he said that "it is necessary for the Russians to be close to the negotiations and the negotiators in order to intervene and offer assistance in the event of a disagreement."

Abu-Mazin, head of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, pointed to the need for the Americans to monopolize the supervision of the negotiations by virtue of their being the most powerful. "The Russian must be present at this stage." He said that he sensed that during his talks with Russian officials. And that he asked them to name a permanent representative in Cairo alongside the negotiators. He said: There is a U.S. representative, so why should there not be a Russian representative to represent the other sponsor in the peace process?

Abu-Mazin, who also heads the joint Russian-Palestinian committee, stressed that, as the peace march began in Madrid under the sponsorship of the United States and Russia, the march should end under their sponsorship, especially in view of the absence of the UN role, in order to protect international legitimacy.

Abu-Mazin said that the PLO has always been keen to establish good relations with Russia. And this keenness still exists. It is represented in consultation, cooperation, and exchanging views, not only over bilateral issues, but also the other issues of common concern, especially the course of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations and the Syrian-Israeli track. 'Abbas pointed out that Russia is a large state and has all the components of a superpower. It has "gone through a period of illness, but this giant is going to return as it was." Abu-Mazin urged the Arabs to establish strong relations with Russia in order to bring about a balance in the international equation and so that U.S. positions will become balanced. The Palestinian official said: We are not demanding bias toward our issues from any superpower. "We want the world to be neutral, just, and fair, because historically, we Arabs have been unjustly treated." 'Abbas praised the results he achieved in his talks with Russian officials, first and foremost the first deputy foreign minister, the deputy foreign minister, and Viktor Posuvalyuk, President Boris Yeltsin's envoy to the Middle East. He said that during his talks he noted a new method and tone in the dialogue and a Russian desire to secure just and comprehensive solutions in the Middle East. He said that he stressed to them that "there are rights for the Arabs which they should obtain." Abu-Mazin pointed out that Russia is expected to request the return of a palace in Jericho which belonged to Czarist Russia and is now held by the Greek Church, which obtained it in an illegal manner from the British Mandate.

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Algeria

Foreign Ministry Concerned Over Kuwait, Iraq

LD0910174494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Affairs Ministry statement said today that Algeria was following up with extreme concern the development of the situation on the border between the sisterly State of Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry statement added, that while Algeria expressed its extreme concern over the escalation of the tension between the two fraternal and neighboring countries, it might have adverse consequences on the security and stability in the region.

Zeroual Committed to Building Arab Maghreb

LD1010195794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today President Liamine Zeroual called together the newly appointed ambassadors, consuls general, and consuls of Algeria for a meeting at the presidential offices. Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and Ahmed Attaf, secretary of state for cooperation and Maghreb affairs, were present at the meeting.

The president described the global, coherent approach being adopted for the transitional period. He called on our diplomats to explain this approach in the countries to which they are accredited. Liamine Zeroual recalled that the country's foreign policy is founded on the inviolable principles of peace, cooperation, and support for just causes.

According to the head of state, Algeria will wholeheartedly pursue its commitment to the construction of the Arab Maghreb. The Western Sahara question must reach a conclusion in a just and final resolution as this is vital to security and stability in the Maghreb, the president said. Referring to the south of our territory, Liamine Zeroual called on our diplomats to maintain an unflagging commitment to the promotion of coordination among the states of the Sahel-Sahara region.

The head of state said that Algeria is making a useful contribution to inter-Arab reconciliation and the emergence of renewed Arab solidarity. Algeria must preserve the African mechanism for the settlement of conflicts. Its policy is founded upon solidarity, he stated.

Tackling the subject of the Islamic community, the president noted that the state is faced with a serious challenge that is threatening its stability, as a result of the manipulation of Islam. He urged that extremism and terrorism be banished.

Zeroual Stresses Economics in Foreign Policy

LD1110085394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Liamine Zeroual today called together newly appointed ambassadors, consuls general, and consuls of Algeria for a meeting at the presidential offices. [passage omitted]

The president dealt extensively with Algerian diplomacy's commitment to the economic aspects of foreign policy, particularly at a time when our country is starting a renewal process to revive its development. In this connection, the president recalled that at the ministerial council he decided that our embassies would be gradually provided with economic counsellors and that he would ask our diplomats to take advantage of economic retraining. [passage omitted]

He said that the results obtained from the economic sphere will in the future be the criteria by which the cost effectiveness of our representatives abroad will be assessed. [passage omitted]

President Zeroual concluded his directives by urging that more attention be paid to the issue of international cooperation. He noted that the recently established Algerian agency for international cooperation epitomizes the new approach of Algeria, which is seeking to mobilize international cooperation to serve its development.

Ennahada Leader Reports Meeting Madani, Belhadj

MM1110124394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Oct 94 p 4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "Algerian Ennahda Leader Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Met With Madani and Belhadj, Who Express Their Willingness to Engage in Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Cheikh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Algerian Ennahda movement, has said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the bilateral meetings between the opposition party and the government, agreed upon in the wake of the fourth round of national dialogue, have not yet been programmed. He added that the idea was proposed for the sake of ironing out the obstacles facing the dialogue and clarifying matters completely before agreeing to meet again.

Cheikh Djaballah, in London to attend a seminar entitled "The Future of the Arab Maghreb" which concluded its proceedings on Friday, added that he had met last Monday [3 October] with Salvation Front leader Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj in the place where they are under house arrest, and that the meeting had lasted four hours.

He said that the meeting "dealt with all aspects of the crisis and the necessary and suitable solutions to it. And they expressed willingness to participate in resolving it, provided that they and their leaders [qadathuma] are released and their party is rehabilitated."

Asked about the extent of President Liamine Zeroual's commitment to the national dialogue, Djaballah said:

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"He was asked clearly and frankly about the fate of the results of the national dialogue, and he said that that he was committed to implementing it in his capacity as head of state and defense minister." Cheikh Djaballah went on: "However, we still sense and feel that there are great 'pressures' being exerted by the secular westernization tendency to thwart the national dialogue. These pressures could constitute a major obstacle to the progress of the national dialogue."

MCB Communique Calls For Talks With Zeroual

LD0810203894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The national commissions of the Berber Cultural Movement [MCB] yesterday called for a meeting with the state president in order to find a conclusive solution to the denial of the Berber identity and language, I quote.

The national commissions also called for the continuation of the boycott of schools and universities. The MCB called for local marches in order to protest against the beginning of the work of the commission on the teaching of Tamazight. This current within the MCB says it does not oppose dialogue as long as it is transparent. However, it rejects any monotoring of the contact with and choice of its interlocutors. Finally, the MCB national commissions called on the authorities to guarantee the safety of the citizens and demanded that they do their utmost to find Matoub Lounes safe and sound.

Kidnapped Singer Released Near Tizi Ouzou

LD1010223094 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2130 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We learned less than an hour ago that Matoub Lounes, the Kabyle singer, was freed this evening near Tizi Ouzou. Matoub Lounes was abducted, no doubt by Islamic fundamentalists, on 25 September. The whole of Kabylie was particularly hard hit by the abduction of this 38-year-old man who had been a symbol for the people of the region since the big demonstrations of 1980.

Florence Leroy spoke by telephone with Idir Benyounes of the Berber Cultural Movement [MCB] in Tizi Ouzou a few minutes ago. Benyounes spoke about the circumstances of the release of Matoub Lounes:

[Begin recording] [Benyounes] A terrorist group has thus freed Matoub Lounes in the same place as the kidnapping took place. They waylaid citizens from whom they took their identity papers, telling them that they had to take him home and that if anything at all happened to him they would be answerable for it; they then took their identity papers . This happened at about 2030. At the moment there is a team of doctors with Matoub to assess his state of health, so, for the time being, he has not made any statements.

[Leroy] Is it known precisely why he was abducted?

[Benyounes] I do not believe there is any mystery about that. Matoub Lounes is an activist in the Berber cause first and foremost, and he is a steadfast activist for the republic, for democracy. I believe today that the MCB's fight for Matoub to be released safe and sound has reached a successful conclusion. Everyone is overjoyed about this here in Tizi Ouzou and in Kabylie, where at the moment I am speaking to you cars are driving in procession and women are ululating. The whole population is outside. [end recording]

GIA Claims Responsibility for Singer's Killing

NC1010095294 Paris AFP in English 0835 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Oct 10 (AFP)—The radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) has claimed responsibility for the recent killing of Algerian singer Cheb Hasni, newspapers here reported Sunday [9 October] citing the latest issue of the group's underground newspaper.

The papers said that the GIA shot to death Hasni 10 days ago because he was "an enemy of God" who "spread evil on earth."

Hasni's death had sparked a major outcry in Algeria, especially among his youth followers.

The GIA also claimed responsibility for last Wednesday's killing of Ali Tahanouti, the head of a football club.

Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria have waged a terrorist campaign to overturn the secular government since January 1992 when the military intervened to cancel the second round of elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Egypt

Mubarak, Kuwaiti Leader on Situation on Border

NC0710193294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah tonight. They exchanged views over developments on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border and security conditions in the Gulf.

Ministry Gives Statement on Iraqi-Kuwaiti Tension

NC0710200394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1942 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—A statement was released by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry this evening. It said that Egypt is following with deep concern the developments in the border area between Kuwait and Iraq. It demands that the Iraqi regime stop any

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escalation of the situation that might increase tension in the region and throughout the Arab world.

The statement said that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in August 1990 was the reason for the serious tension and divisions from which the Arab world has been suffering since that date. The Egyptian Government warns of the danger of a recurrence of a similar situation.

Intensive contacts are underway between Cairo and Kuwait and a number of Arab countries, as well as the Arab League secretary general.

Mubarak Phones Kuwaiti Amir, Saudi King on Gulf

NC0810064594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak last night made two telephone calls—to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

President Mubarak and the two Arab leaders exchanged views on developments on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border and the security situation in the Gulf.

Musa Calls Kuwaiti Minister, Arab League Chief

NC0710202694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2014 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa telephoned Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir this evening.

Musa made a similar telephone call to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Both calls were made as part of Egypt's follow-up of developments on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border.

Musa Urges Iraq To Cooperate To Ease Suffering

NC0810155194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today commented on developments in the Gulf. He stated that Egypt issued a statement on this matter yesterday, adding that coordination on this matter will be made through the member states of the Damascus Declaration. He pointed out that the Arab League is following up on the matter.

The foreign minister pointed out that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is to blame for the deteriorating situation in the Arab world. He added: We do not want to see a repetition of such crises or problems under any form or for any excuse. At the same time, he added, the Iraqi people are suffering and the Iraqi regime must take this into consideration. Accordingly, if the regime cooperates, eases the people's problems, complies with the required resolutions, and recognizes the state of Kuwait, this will help ease the situation experienced by the Iraqi people, he added.

Kuwaiti Envoy Meets Musa, Comments on Situation

NC0910155894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo. The Kuwaiti ambassador stated that he conveyed to Minister Musa an oral message from Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. In his message, Shaykh al-Sabah expressed Kuwait's thanks to President Mubarak, Minister Musa, and the Egyptian people for their prompt reaction to the recent events in the Gulf. He noted that President Mubarak's immediate telephone call to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir and Musa's contact with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad left a good impression on the Kuwaiti people.

Ambassador al-Bu'ayjan added that Minister Musa briefed him on the views of Egypt, in view of its international status and experience and the Egyptian foreign minister's many international contacts. He added that he will convey the Egyptian views to his country's government.

The Kuwaiti ambassador stressed that his country has to be careful, although signs indicate that Saddam Husayn will not be able to do anything because he is defeated and crippled. His actions, he added, are geared to his domestic audience to win the support of the Iraqi people and Army.

The Kuwaiti ambassador praised the Arab stances, adding that the Arab brothers are now standing behind Kuwait. He said that those among them who sided with Iraq in the past have not taken any stance against Kuwait or shown any support for Iraq. He pointed out that there is an invitation for a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council to discuss the situation and that his country is in touch with member states of the Damascus Declaration. He noted that Kuwait has not yet called for an urgent meeting of the Arab League, but his country appreciates the role of the league and its secretary general.

Musa: Iraqi Withdrawal Would Defuse Crisis

NC1110125194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1157 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has declared that Iraq must withdraw its forces from the Kuwaiti border. He said withdrawal would be a sound step and Egypt hopes that such incidents will not recur.

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Musa pointed out the general tendency to solve disputes and ease tensions in the Arab world, saying that any problems must be debated within Arab organizations for the sake of regional stability and peace.

In remarks to reporters today, he affirmed that Egypt and everyone else are concerned about the Iraqi people's tragic conditions.

He explained that he cannot determine whether Iraq's declaration yesterday that it withdrew its forces is true.

Musa said: We have been following newspaper and news agency reports about this development, as well as the information that Iraqi UN Representative Nizar Hamdun provided to the UN Security Council. If the news about the withdrawal is true, we welcome it.

Musa told reporters that he held a telephone conversation with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday to discuss the current situation in the Gulf in light of the Iraqi movements and the probable Kuwaiti response.

He said he also discussed this matter twice with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and then telephoned Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad.

Musa pointed out that Egypt has made contacts at the highest level with Saudi Arabia and that various Egyptian and Saudi politicians have discussed the situation with the aim of coordinating the two countries' stances.

Asked the likelihood that the United States would carry out a military strike against Iraq if it does not withdraw and what Egypt's stance would be on such an action, Musa said: "Let us deal with the situation as it is now. If the Iraqi withdrawal from the border is true, this will defuse the crisis."

Saddam Warned Against Tampering With Security

NC0810152294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "The Iraqi Ruler Is Trying To Play With Fire Once Again"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It is certain that the ruler of Iraq is living in another world and is not aware of the changes that have taken place. He is also unaware of the magnitude of the tragedy he has brought on the oppressed and helpless Iraqi people as a result of his horrendous crime against Kuwait and the Arab nation, when his sick and malicious soul talked him into committing a treacherous act of aggression against a fraternal Arab state. His crime inflicted a deep wound on the Arab nation that is yet to heal, shattered Arab solidarity, jeopardized pan-Arab security, and destroyed Iraq's human and economic capabilities.

It is certain that this ruler has completely lost his mind, otherwise he would not have amassed his Armed Forces and moved them toward the borders with Kuwait and threatened the world community, as represented by the United Nations, by refusing to implement the international resolutions imposed on the Iraqi regime. The world regarded these actions as a violation of international legality and a direct threat not only to Kuwait and the Gulf region, but also to world peace and security.

It is regrettable that Saddam's action has come at a time when the Arab nation is celebrating October's great victory, which restored dignity to the Arab world and imposed the challenge of peace on Israel. The only interpretation for this reckless behavior by the Iraqi ruler is that it is a desperate attempt to remind the world community that he is still alive and ruling Iraq. It is also an attempt by Saddam to drive the Iraqi people's attention away from the deteriorating economic conditions that they have been experiencing for years as a result of the blockade and sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime, which turned life in Iraq into hell. Most important of all, the Iraqi ruler wants to keep his Army busy with another battle so that it may not turn against him and rid the Iraqi people of his evils, particularly in light of the growing opposition both at home and abroad. The national opposition forces seek to save what is left of the Iraqi people from the tight grip of this tyrant, whose only concern is to stay in power as long as possible, even over the bodies of the Iraqi children.

The Iraqi ruler's action has generated immediate and angry world reactions. Thus, it was not surprising for Egypt, out of its pan-Arab responsibility and in a bid to safeguard its own national security, to move fast to avert the danger before it was too late and warn the Iraqi ruler of the consequences of playing with fire once again. This is because Egypt can tell the serious and negative repercussions for the Arab world that could result from any reckless action. [passage omitted]

If Egypt is warning the Iraqi ruler against any attempt to drag his people and the entire Arab nation into a new tragedy, it places a number of facts before all the Arabs:

1. Egypt will not permit any adventurer to tamper with pan-Arab security, regardless of the excuses. It also stands firmly against attempts to impose a fait accompli by force or to expand at the expense of others.

2. All the Arabs must learn the lesson of the year 1990 and stand up together against this ruler in a bid to preserve the Arab nation and Iraq itself and safeguard the Arabs' economic and military capabilities.

3. The Arab states must voice their outright rejection of the Iraqi ruler's behavior and his attempt to breach international legality, force him to implement the Security Council resolutions as soon as possible, recognize the State of Kuwait, release the [Kuwaiti] prisoners of war, and accept the international resolution for the demarcation of the borders with Kuwait. This is the only

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way to terminate the international sanctions and, accordingly, save the Iraqi people.

The Arab nation today is facing a serious challenge that requires us all to live up to our pan-Arab responsibility and stand up to this challenge with full courage, or else the consequences will be grave for all the Arabs.

Local Papers Report Iraq's 'Wrong Calculations'

NC0910082694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—The Cairo newspapers that will appear tomorrow stress that the Iraqi regime is once again making wrong calculations regarding the situation in the Gulf. They say Saddam Husayn "has not yet learned his lesson."

In their editorials, the three papers, AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR, and AL-JUMHURIYAH, agree that the actions of the Iraqi regime are always wrong, crazy, and disastrous for the Iraqi people.

AL-AHRAM says no one knows exactly how decisions are made in Iraq now, but it appears that the Iraqi Government thought that making a move to exert pressure of a military nature toward Kuwait is an important card for lifting the international embargo.

It adds: The problem with the calculations of the Iraqi leadership is that they are unilateral, and this strengthens the insistence on continuing the sanctions against Iraq. The paper says that doubts about the intentions of the Iraqi leadership will intensify because of these reckless acts.

AL-AKHBAR characterizes Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as insane and abnormal because he still seeks to repeat his immortal mistakes, which began with his war against Iran, then the invasion of Kuwait, and now threats that measures will be taken to lift the economic embargo.

The paper says some observers attribute Saddam's recent threats to a death wish, an illness that affects some people. It says it is wrong for the international community to deal with such leaders as normal people with some amount of awareness and knowledge.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that at a time when sympathy with the people of Iraq increased and voices were raised asking that the economic embargo against them be lifted, Saddam's new, miscalculated adventure comes to undermine everything.

The paper says the ball is now in the court of the Iraqi regime, which, through its narrow-mindedness and recklessness was the reason behind Iraq's biggest defeat.

The paper says that Egypt, as always, has shouldered its responsibility toward the Arab nation, warning the Iraqi regime and calling on it to stop any escalation so that the tragedy of Kuwait's invasion of 1990, which was the main reason for dividing the Arabs, cannot be repeated.

More From Papers

NC1010064194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Cairo newspapers in their Monday editions stress that Iraq's massing considerable forces on the border with Kuwait shows that the Iraqi president and the champion of "the Mother of Battles," which, thanks to him, turned into the mother of defeats, still has the same old mentality that has brought about catastrophes and disasters to the Iraqi people.

AL-AKHBAR says that if this man had one iota of reason, he would have kept out of the public eye, having dissipated Iraqi oil wealth in his attempts to fulfill his dreams for power. His dreams caused long wars and defeats that left hundreds of thousands of Iraqi youths dead or wounded and destroyed the infrastructure and national economy. This shows that the failed dictator has learned nothing from past lessons and is again trying to repeat his failed maneuvers. AL-AKHBAR says that whether Saddam Husayn hides evil intent for Kuwait or is merely bluffing, as usual, it is certain that the result would eventually bring further suffering and pain for the poor, defenseless Iraqi people.

AL-AHRAM states that the most serious aspect of the emerging crisis between Iraq and Kuwait is that the mental state of the Iraqi leadership has not changed since the invasion of Kuwait and its subsequent defeat and forced withdrawal from that country. AL-AHRAM says that this mental state deludes the Iraqi leadership into believing that it leads a major and strong state. This mental state, the paper adds, is responsible for this leadership's disgraceful behavior in the previous crisis from the outset. This leadership invaded Kuwait believing that no one would use force against it. When it realized that the use of force was inevitable, it persisted in its obstinacy until the war broke out. And when the war broke out, this leadership again persisted in its arrogance, claiming victory. The result of its stubbornness was a crushing defeat that caused the Iraqi people isolation, boycott, and suffering. AL-AHRAM asserts that Saddam Husayn will not dare invade Kuwait and he must know that blackmail will not achieve his demand for lifting the sanctions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH praises the Arab reaction to the escalation of the situation on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders. It says that this reaction reaffirms the Arab leaders' resolve to confront incalculable adventures and to defuse the crisis out of concern for the higher Arab interests and the interests of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the key to a solution is in the hands of the Iraqi regime, which must stop the policy of creating crises with its neighbors. It stresses that the

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latest developments prove the soundness of Egypt's views. Egypt believes that Baghdad's stance shows that it persists in its miscalculations and that sound behavior must focus first on (?saving) the Iraqi people and on building bridges with all Arab countries.

Egypt To Attend Damascus Declaration Meeting

NC0810134294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt is prepared to take part in a meeting of the Damascus Declaration member states if one is convened. He added that Kuwait had declared that it would coordinate with members of the Damascus Declaration, the Arab League, and the United Nations.

The foreign minister stressed that the [Egyptian Foreign Ministry] statement made the day before yesterday defines Egypt's firm stand regarding the current developments. Musa described the Iraqi movements as lacking any significance or wisdom. He denied any Egyptian contacts with Iraq at the present time. The foreign minister emphasized that the current events in the Gulf region underscore the importance of the role of pan-Arab security, which Egypt has been calling for.

Mubarak Stresses Full Israeli Withdrawal

NC0710164594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak has stressed that the October [1973] war was a turning point in the strategic military thought throughout the world. It proved that territorial expansion to achieve security was no longer practical and that the addition of new territories cannot ensure security.

Speaking to the international Nile Television today, President Mubarak expressed belief that a major change took place after the war, especially in the concept of expansion, as happened in Israel. [passage omitted]

The president said the most important issue now is the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He said that despite some difficulties there has been some progress on these tracks. He added: I learned that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the region to advance the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. I have always said and I say again that peace cannot be achieved without a full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, and the Golan must return to Syria. I know that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government are willing to make peace, but it must be a just peace.

Asked how Egyptian and foreign investors could be attracted to invest in Egypt, the president said: Many Egyptians are investing their money in Egypt, but many others are not doing so, keeping their funds abroad. We are trying to convince them, and we are offering many facilities and removing many obstacles. These facilities are available for the Egyptians, and I intend to make them available for foreigners as well.

Asked what message he wished to convey to Egyptians abroad, President Mubarak said: I would like to tell them not to listen to anti-Egypt propaganda about the terrorist acts. Egypt hosted the International Conference on Population and Development, which was attended by delegations from more than 180 countries. They saw with their own eyes the stability that Egypt enjoys. Terrorist acts can take place anywhere in the world, and terrorist and criminal groups are present throughout the world. But be sure that Egypt enjoys stability. We are sure that those elements are financed by foreign sides, but we will not allow them to create disturbances in Egypt.

Diplomat Says Syrian-Israeli Peace Possible

NC0810093594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, in Tel Aviv, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; on the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Husayn] In view of your contacts with the Israeli leadership and your knowledge of the Israeli public's opinions, will the Syrian-Israeli track see a full solution by the end of next year?

[Basyuni] I believe there will be a comprehensive solution by the end of next year. We hope there will be progress this year so that a peace treaty will be signed between Syria and Israel in a few months, that is, next year.

As I said, the issue is very simple: complete withdrawal in exchange for a complete peace. If there is agreement on the principle, details of the withdrawal timetable and security arrangements will be settled in a short time. In my estimation, a peace accord between Israel and Syria can be reached before June 1995 if the principle of a full withdrawal from the Golan is agreed upon. [passage omitted]

Tantawi Affirms 'Egypt Will Not Strike Sudan'

NC1010122394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, has emphasized that the regional security system needs to be reviewed because the threats the region encounters at present are beyond the capability of individual states.

In an interview today with MAYU, mouthpiece of the National Democratic Party, Tantawi said that with its role and the cultural and human significance it carries,

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Egypt can play a major effective role in maintaining Gulf security. He affirmed that Egypt's security is inseparable from pan-Arab security.

Tantawi added that the Middle East suffers from a military imbalance, noting that Egypt is trying to avert an aggravation of that imbalance. He pointed out that it was the first state to put forward an initiative to declare the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction.

Field Marshal Tantawi pointed out that the joint military exercises Egypt conducts with other states help transfer experience and upgrade the combat efficiency of the Egyptian armed forces by mastering new developments in weapons and equipment.

Responding to a question on Sudan's insistence to make up a crisis with Egypt, the defense minister affirmed that "Egypt will not strike Sudan." He added that the decision concerning Sudan is in the hands of the president of the Republic and the people. As armed forces, and away from politics, I say that if a man slaps me on the right cheek, I will not turn the other cheek; on the contrary, I will break his face, he said. But this does not apply to Sudan, because I do not think that matters have reached that extent, he remarked.

Comments on Armed Forces

NC1110070294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has said that Egypt is central to the Arab world and that this status will remain so in the conscience of the Arab nation forever. [passage omitted]

Tantawi said: We are pressing ahead in our work to develop the Armed Forces. He noted that this process is not limited to weapons only but covers command and control systems, information, and communications.

He added: There are medium-term and long-term plans because we don't just think of our Armed Forces today but we also look ahead at their status in the year 2000 and beyond. He pointed out that the development process has three directions: diversifying weapons sources, modernizing the present weapons, and modifying other weapons.

Zambian President, Mubarak Discuss African Issues

NC0810205594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the talks President Husni Mubarak and Zambian President Frederick Shiluba held this evening, which lasted for about two hours and continued over a dinner, dealt with the situation in Africa, a number of current problems, the economic situation in the African continent, and the latest developments in the Middle East.

He said members of the Egyptian and Zambian delegations held a round of talks to advance cooperation between the two countries. Ministers of agriculture and interior participated in the talks.

Musa said talks between Presidents Mubarak and Shiluba will resume Sunday morning.

Libya

Envoy to Arab League Denounces Iraqi Moves

NC0810150194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League, has denounced Iraq's massing of troops on the border and its threats against Kuwait, asserting that such military movements will only cause inter-Arab relations to deteriorate further.

Al-Bishari called for resolving the disputes among the fraternal countries, respecting each other's sovereignty, not intervening in each other's domestic affairs, and observing an attitude of good neighborliness in line with the Arab League and UN charters.

He stressed the need to hold the Arab summit requested by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as soon as possible to reach a comprehensive Arab reconciliation and settle all differences.

Al-Bishari pointed out that Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait harmed the Arab nation and must not be repeated. He said Kuwait's sovereignty and independence must be respected.

Al-Bishari said his country is opposed to the siege and starvation of the Iraqi people, but at the same time it does not approve of the invasion that Iraq carried out in the past. He explained that the invasion violated the Arab order and was an aggression against an Arab country that is a member of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations. Al-Bishari noted that al-Qadhdhafi was the first person to call for holding a summit in Cairo in 1990 for the sake of liberating Kuwait.

JANA: Gulf Crisis 'Cheap Hollywood Show'

LD0810131094 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Despite the huge arms deals between Western countries, Saudi Arabia, and the rest of the Gulf countries amounting to billions of dollars, and the monopoly of American companies for the military and civil projects in the region, reports have been coming in on American political and military buildup to bring more pressures to bear upon countries of the region

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under the pretext that Iraq was moving its forces toward the borders with Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The political affairs editor of the JAMAHIRIYAH News Agency [JANA] has asserted that what is taking place is merely a storm in a teacup and a cheap Hollywood show in order to bring more pressures to bear upon the countries of the Gulf, for more blackmail.

He added: It seems as if the theatrical show in Haiti and Bosnia were not enough and that the Americans had to look for another show—and a sickening one too.

The editor pointedly affirmed that the America-Western folly has got out of hand. The whole world is fully aware that Iraq has no longer the weaponry and the army to threaten anyone. The world is also aware that it was the American and Western forces that had destroyed Iraq's Army and weaponry and installed cameras everywhere, including in the streets of Baghdad.

He added: Things have become so clear that there is no need for anyone to try to predict the aims of what is taking place—they are trying to stage a frenzied dance around the corpses of Arabs in the Gulf. It is absurd to think that anyone could be fooled by the lies of Western diplomatic circles that have been reported by the American-Western media and its tools in the region.

Radio Comments on U.S. Intentions in Gulf

LD1010165094 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 10 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The voice of the Great Arab Homeland Radio, the organ of the Revolutionary Committees, transmitted a comment on the intentions and goals behind the America row in the Gulf area where it mobilised its fleets, aircraft carriers and troops and deployed it in the area under false pretexts. It said that the aims are clearly the extortion of the Gulf states, obtaining further armaments deals for American and Western companies, in addition to the greater objective, the consolidation of colonialist military presence in the area. The radio said that America has exceeded all limits in its arrogance and indifference to the international community and in undermining the so-called Security Council, which became like a doll in its hand.

The commentary confirmed that the row made by America in the Gulf area epitomises clearly the nature of the American mentality and its handling of various issues and its humiliation of the Arabs in particular, for whom America has no preoccupation other than to destroy, ruin and extort.

The radio concluded its commentary by urging the international community to wake up and become aware of the abyss to which it is being led by America. The Arabs have to raise their awareness to the level of the historical and fatal challenges which make them, the most serious being the crusader, colonialist conspiracy to dominate the Arab homeland and Balkanise it.

Mauritania

Minister Condemns Iraqi Army Movements

AB1010112394 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Mauritania, which was accused of supporting Iraq during the 2 August 1990 Kuwaiti invasion, has officially expressed its hostility to the deployment of the Iraqi Armed Forces along the Kuwaiti border. The Mauritanian Government's stand is confirmed by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, whose remarks in Arabic were recorded and translated by Salem Meshbour Salem.

[Begin Lekhal recording, in Arabic fading into French translation] We have heard the news about the movement of Iraqi troops towards the Kuwaiti border. In this regard, I would like to reiterate Mauritania's permanent attachment to international equality. We attach importance to the security and territorial integrity of the brother nation of Kuwait. This was the stand I gave during my last visit to Kuwait. We hope that what is happening will end with the preservation of stability, harmony, and peace for all countries in the region. [end recording]

Covert Movement Tied to 'Foreign Circles'

LD1010010094 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohamed Lemine Salem Ould Dah, the minister of interior, posts and telecommunications, this evening made a statement to the national press in which he talked about the recent investigation into the elements of the Islamic Movement in Mauritania. He said the investigation confirmed material and political ties between those elements and many foreign circles. He added that the ties were concealed by organizations and clubs whose activities deviated from the objectives on which their original licenses were based. He stressed that it was no longer possible for these organizations and clubs to continue their activity in the country in view of their suspicious behavior.

Here is the text of the minister's statement:

[Begin Ould Dah recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Citizens: The investigation that was carried out recently regarding the Islamic Movement in Mauritania, which is known by the acronym (?Hasim), found that the movement was covertly engaged in political activities and that its policy included mobilizing all available human and material resources. By this behavior it was following in the footsteps of the other extremist movements in the world.

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This covert movement's ties with circles abroad has been proven beyond any shadow of a doubt. In addition to financial and moral support, it has received letters of a covert nature and replied to them in the same manner, which sometimes contained news on the nature of [word indistinct] work, and sometimes on the movement's stance vis-a-vis the regime and the political situation in the country.

In this context, this movement managed to change the goals of some relief organizations in our country, thus making their behavior incompatible with the agreements for which they had been accredited. This behavior was also incompatible with the laws and regulations in force in the country and also incompatible with international laws and norms. This led to a situation where some officials in these organizations were leading members in this secret movement. Some of these organizations departed from the right path.

This secret movement managed to divert some resources of the relief organizations and use them for their own wicked objectives. The movement managed to do the same with national bodies and clubs and used them as a front and a cover to achieve their designs. It exploited their human and material resources to reach the same goals. The goals and objectives of this movement include the following: using religious propaganda and deceiving all those who do not adopt its ideas or style; showing contempt towards our revered scholars and depreciating their dreams and calling them names which do not befit their honorable status among the faithful; spying on our society by planting agents in every district and home to learn about the weaknesses of the Muslims and send information to their masters abroad; importing an alien religious message to this country which has a deeply-rooted faith and spreading that message to people with weak minds and conditioning these people, mentally and physically, to turn them into obedient tools. At this point begins the operation aimed at shaking the country's stability and security and sowing fear in the hearts of the citizens and from there seizing power.

On the strength of the aforementioned, it is no longer possible for the organizations, the bodies or clubs, which helped support this secret organization, to continue their activities in view of the obvious risk these activities constitute for the country's security and its citizens. Therefore everyone of us should be cautious and vigilant and should confront with all their force anyone who dares harm the sovereignty and independence of this homeland. Let everyone know that this homeland is our responsibility and we will protect it whatever the cost. Public opinion will be given the evidence at an appropriate time. May God help us succeed. Peace upon you. [end recording]

Confessions Expose 'Secret' Militant Sects

AB0910185494 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Mauritania, 10 of the 60 persons arrested at the end of September have made confessions. Yesterday evening they admitted on the radio that they belong to secret Islamic fundamentalist organizations whose aim is to topple the government in Nouakchott. Salem Mej Bour Salem, of Africa No.1 Mauritania, reports:

[Begin Salem recording] About 10 Islamic leaders arrested on charges of conspiracy publicly repented in the presence of journalists and their statements were fully carried on national radio and television. The Islamic militants admitted that they took part in activities of secret organizations called the (?hasem), Mauritanian Islamic movements. This is the first time since independence that conspirators have repented publicly. The Islamic militants also confirmed their organization has been in existence since 1990, when a general assembly was held in Nouakchott at the premises of the Mauritanian Cultural and Islamic Association.

Among those who confessed are two senior public servants and members of the Executive Bureau of the Union of Democratic Forces [UFD], the main opposition party in Mauritania. They are (Jemil Ould Moulaye) and (Hassan Ould Modai Eddi), a municipal council member in Nouakchott. In contrast to this, on 3 October, UFD Secretary General Ahmed Ould Daddah described as innocent members of his party arrested for belonging to subversive organizations. Speaking on radio and television, the Islamic militants, including those from the UFD, said they were resigning from subversive organizations [words indistinct] after acknowledging the role of financiers played by Islamic organizations represented in Mauritania. They also admitted making regular contacts and often attending meetings abroad with Islamic fundamentalist leaders, particularly Sudan's Hassan At-Turabi and Tunisia's (Ghanouchi al- Nadha) who lives in exile in London. [end recording]

Speaking on national radio and television, Interior Minister Mohamed Lemine Salem Ould Dah [name as heard] declared that the inquiry recently conducted into Islamic fundamentalist movements in the country clearly showed that these movements had never stopped carrying on clandestine political activities in league with external forces, and mobilizing the human and material resources at their disposal for the realization of several objectives: among others, paralyzing and destabilizing the country and massacring the population. [passage indistinct]

Members of Jihad Group Arrested, Confess Crimes

LD1010230094 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Security Services have also arrested the extremist Jihad group that was set up in March this year, and which adopts terrorism in a very serious attempt to undermine the atmosphere of freedom, stability, and tranquillity enjoyed by our country.

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We now present to the public opinion statements and confessions made by the Jihad group:

[Begin recording] [(Bellahi)] I, (Nouaman Ould Ahmed Ould Bellahi), born in 1969 in Nouakchott, took part in the setting up of a secret organization bent on using every means, including Jihad [words indistinct]. Since this organization leads to discord, I declare that I am withdrawing from it and that I do not intend to return to anything that may sow discord. I also ask for forgiveness and pardon.

[(Soulayma)] I, (Mohamed Sidi Ya Ben Soulayma), alias al-Nawawi, born in 1961 in the rural area of (Bitelemit), admit that I belonged for nearly eight months to an organization advocating Jihad. I used to love Jihad although all this proves my love for fame [words indistinct]. I realized the danger to my life and for the Muslims and Islam in general. My repentance to God Almighty is irrevocable and I beseech Him not to let me fall in such a trap ever again. I present a sincere request to the authorities and ask them to pardon and forgive me and return me to my family, may God reward them. I pledge to God and commit myself to the authorities never to do anything in the future that might endanger security. I also commit myself never to join any secret organization in future. May God be my witness. Signed (Mohamed Sidi Ya), alias al-Nawawi, on 6 October 1994.

[(Ahmed)] I, (Mohamed Ben Ahmed), alias al-Sha'ir, born in 1962 in (Rachid), confess to have joined an armed organization after I was led to it by emotions and a desire to fill an emptiness in my life. God knows how doubtful I was about the legality of this organization. I was often tempted to go to religious conventions to study jurisprudence. Now thanks to God I have recovered the sense of seriousness [as heard] and regained the logic of rationality [as heard], therefore, I announce my repentance and departure from this organization. I will henceforth mind my own affairs. I also present my apologies to the government and ask them to consider me as one of the homeland's children. Furthermore, I have not yet carried out any action that harmed security, even if I was about to since I was involved in a process that would have led to that. Signed (Mohamed Ben Ahmed), alias al-Sha'ir, on 7 October 1994. [end recording]

These were the statements and confessions made by the Jihad group. It is worth mentioning that two members of this group had received military training in Afghanistan.

Sudan

Minister Discusses Crisis With Iraqi Ambassador

EA1010155094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the minister of the presidecy of the Republic, this morning met in his office His Excellency 'Abd-al-Samad Hamid Ali, the Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum, with whom he reviewed the latest developments in the Iraqi arena.

The ambassador told the radio correspondent that he briefed the minister on relations between Iraq and the UN Security Council, as well as with the committee concerned with the destruction of prohibited weapons as defined by Security Council Resolution No. 687. The committee is due to submit its report to the council today. His excellency said the Iraqi leadership's view is that the obfuscatory stand of the committee's chairman, who is supported by the United States, aims to prolong the blockade and cause the deaths of as many Iraqis as possible by means of a policy of starvation and deprivation, in spite of the sacrifices Iraq has already made regarding its assets and its scientific and practical aspirations. The ambassador added that Iraq was still waiting for the outcome of the Security Council's discussions and the lifting of the oppression against Iraq and the ending of the blockade without further postponements or delays.

The ambassador confirmed that western media propaganda about the deployment of troops around the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait was no more than a storm in a teacup and a pretext for sending western forces back to the region from which they had earlier withdrawn.

The ambassador confirmed that the minister had reaffirmed Sudan's support for Iraq and had said that Sudan understood the wicked motives and intentions against the Iraqi people. He had said the Sudanese people sympathized with the Iraqi people for what they were suffering due to the unfair blockade imposed on them. He had stressed the importance of lifting the blockade to solve the region's problems.

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GCC Expresses 'Deep Concern' over Iraqi Threats

LD0810210994 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The general secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] has expressed its profound concern at the development of the situation in the region in light of the Iraqi regime's troops build up on the borders with the State of Kuwait and its signalling the use of force.

This was said in a statement issued by the Council today and the following is its text:

The GCC General Secretariat is following with deep concern the development of the situation in the region in light of the Iraqi regime's troops build up on the borders with the State of Kuwait and its signalling the use of force. The General Secretariat, while deploring these aggressive moves for the flagrant violations they represent of the Security Council's resolutions relating to the Iraqi regime's aggression on the State of Kuwait and the conditions of the cease-fire defined by Resolution 687—and for the threat they imply to the security and stability of the region—stresses the stand of the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council by the State of Kuwait, based on the principle of collective security and the unity of destiny, recalling, in this respect, the decisions of their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the GCC, which emphasized that the security of the council's states is indivisible.

The General Secretariat demands that the Iraqi regime abandons the policies of threats and force and reminds it of its international commitments according to the resolutions of the Security Council concerning its aggression and the cease-fire conditions Iraq had accepted. It also reminds it that the Security Council, which had approved the international borders between the State of Kuwait and Iraq, had guaranteed the inviolability of these borders and committed itself to take all necessary measures to achieve that as Resolutions 687, 773, and 833 stipulated.

The General Secretariat renews the expression of the GCC states' total sympathy with the fraternal Iraqi people in their humanitarian suffering, and holds the Iraqi regime fully responsible for the sufferings of the Iraqi people as a result of the Iraqi regime's insistance on pursuing policies of threats and aggression and continuing its rejection to implement the Security Council's Resolutions 706 and 712 that tackle the food and medicine needs of the Iraqi people.

The General Secretariat renews the GCC states' keen interest in the unity of Iraq, its sovereignty, and the safety of its territory.

GCC Chiefs of Staff Issue Statement on Iraq

LD0810221894 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2112 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 8 Oct—The chiefs of staff of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states ended their 12th meeting this evening at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh.

Staff General Muhammad Bin Salih al-Hamad, the chief of general staff, gave a speech at the final session in which he said that the meeting discussed a number of topics of concern to the Armed Forces in the GCC states in order to improve their fighting skills and increase cooperation and coordination in many military matters between the forces of the GCC states.

He indicated that the meeting dealt with the Iraqi troops massed on the Kuwaiti borders. The participants heard a brief explanation from the chief of general staff of the Kuwaiti Army and the situation in general, and the measures taken to confront the threats were discussed.

General Muhammad Bin Salih said that the meeting's recommendations would be raised to their highnesses and excellencies the GCC ministers of defense for discussion at their next meeting, God willing.

The meeting issued the following press statement: Their highnesses and excellencies the chiefs of staff of the GCC member states held their 12th meeting at the General Secretariat in Riyadh on 8 October 1994 AD, under the chairmanship of his excellency the chief of general staff in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The participants discussed the agenda, which was headed by the Iraqi threat following the information about the massing of Iraqi troops against the State of Kuwait. They heard a summary from his excellency the chief of general staff of the Kuwaiti Army. They discussed the situation extensively and the measures that must be taken to confront this threat.

Further on Statement

LD0910124694 Riyadh SPA in English 1219 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Oct 9, SPA—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] has expressed deep anxiety over the latest developments as a result of the massing of the Iraqi troops along the Kuwaiti border.

A communique issued by the chiefs of staff of member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council at the end of their 12th meeting here last night, said the GCC General Secretariat would like to condemn these aggressive measures which constitute a flagrant violation of the Security Council's resolutions and the conditions of ceasefire Resolution Number 687.

The GCC states reiterated their support to Kuwait and said the security of the GCC states is indivisible.

The communique called on the Iraqi regime to give up the policy of threats and adhere to the Security Council's resolutions.

The communique reiterated sympathy with the Iraqi people and held the Iraqi regime responsible for the ordeal and sufferings of the Iraqi people.

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It reiterated the keenness of the GCC states for Iraq's unity, sovereignty and safety.

Kuwait

Council of Ministers Discusses Iraqi 'Threats'

LD0710141594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1302 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 7 Oct (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers of the State of Kuwait held an extraordinary meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, acting prime minister and foreign minister. The meeting was attended by Mr. Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Su'dun, head of the National Assembly. In this meeting, the Council of Ministers reviewed the latest reports on the statement issued by the Revolutionary Command Council in Iraq yesterday, which contained the Iraqi regime's allegations and misrepresentations over the causes that led to the ordeal of the Iraqi people and its threats to the State of Kuwait and the states of the region.

In this regard, the Council discussed the objectives and scopes of the Iraqi statement and its direct threat to the State of Kuwait and the security and stability of the region, which comes as a natural result of the state of isolation experienced by this regime because of its perfidious aggression against the State of Kuwait and its insistence on ignoring the UN resolutions that express the will of the international community.

The acting prime minister and foreign minister acquainted the Council of Ministers with the details of the contacts made with the fraternal and friendly states for consultation and coordination with them regarding these threats, and with the results of the meetings that took place this morning at the Foreign Ministry with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states, the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states, and the Damascus Declaration member states. The Council also reviewed the steps that should be taken in this connection, as the Council decided that the second deputy prime minister and finance minister, who is leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the meetings of the UN General Assembly currently being held in New York, should coordinate and consult with the officials of the fraternal and friendly states who are there in New York regarding this development and its dimensions and follow up the diplomatic moves in this connection at all levels.

On the other hand, the Council of Ministers has charged the concerned ministers, each in his own jurisdiction, to complete all the necessary precautionary measures to respond to all eventualities on the various military and civilian levels, with a view to securing all the factors of security and stability in the country.

The Council of Ministers expressed its great appreciation for the energetic and positive positions shown by the fraternal and friendly states vis-a-vis the threats of the Iraqi regime and stressed that these threats, in fact, reflected the reality of the aggressive intentions of this regime and its insistence on deceiving the Iraqi people. This regime is alone to blame for the continuation of the ordeal of the Iraqi people, as a result of its insistence on continuing its defiance to the international community. Kuwait has sympathy with the Iraqi people regarding this ordeal, and it stresses that the only way of ending it is a serious commitment to carrying out all the UN resolutions.

Call-Up of Reservists Brought Forward

LD0710174794 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the current situation and in answer to the call of duty, the Defense Ministry is announcing the call-up of reservists as follows:

A: The call-up of the second and third batches for the months of November and December 1994 will be brought forward to 9 October 1994, with the stipulation that reservists assemble at the reserve forces command garrison at 0800.

B: The fourth, fifth, and sixth batches for the months of February, March, and April 1995 will be called up later on. All those who have been called up should observe the recruitment dates to avoid legal measures that will be taken against defaulters.

Minister on 'Measures' Taken To Confront Iraqis

LD0810043994 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 0300 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has stressed the Government of the State of Kuwait was looking closely at all the Iraqi regime's developments and movements, that it was ready to confront any contingency, and that it has taken, in cooperation with friendly and sisterly countries, arrangements and precautionary measures.

The information minister said in his meetings with the editors of the Kuwaiti newspapers and magazines last night that the State of Kuwaiti has informed the permanent member countries in the Security Council of the movements and threats that have recently emanated from the Baghdad regime and that there was coordination at the highest level to assess the size of the recent military movements and how to deal with them.

Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah briefed the newspaper and magazine editors on all the precautions and measures that have been taken to confront the Iraqi movements.

The information minister appealed to the media to appreciate the responsibility and not exaggerate in assessing the situation. He stressed the situation was under strict scrutiny, and there was coordination between the military and civilian bodies systems.

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At the end of the meeting, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah called for reassuring the citizens. He said the issues were being dealt with in a sound manner, and international reactions confirmed the firmness of the stance of international legitimacy and the UN Security Council vis-a-vis the Iraqi regime.

General on Army Preparations; Reassures Citizens

LD0810064294 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 0407 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Staff Brigadier General Dr. Muhammad al-Hashim, assistant chief-of-staff for administration and manpower, by an unidentified correspondent for the "Good Morning Kuwait" program; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Our Armed Forces have taken all measures to confront all the anticipated possibilities and provocations. The Ministry of Defense yesterday recalled two batches of reservist forces to be present at the camps of the command of the reservist units.

We have with us on the air Staff Brigadier General Dr. Muhammad al-Hashim, assistant chief-of-staff for administration and manpower, to discuss the mobilization of the forces of the Kuwaiti Army. Good morning Muhammad al-Hashim.

[Al-Hasim] You are welcome. Good morning.

[Correspondent] Of course, in our chat this morning, the most important news revolved around the Iraqi regime's threats to the State of Kuwait. Was the recall of the two batches of conscripts for this reason?

[Al-Hashim] Yes, this is true.

[Correspondent] Do we expect the preparations on the border to be ready?

[Al-Hashim] The forces have been on the border since the liberation, not just from today. The Army's readiness has been increased following the Iraqi threat.

[Correspondent] Are these mere threats, or is there really a concentration of forces on the border?

[Al-Hashim] There are threats, and there are movements in the direction of the Kuwaiti border.

[Correspondent] We would also like to know about the positions occupied by the Kuwaiti Army on the border.

[Al-Hashim] The Kuwaiti Army is on the northern front on the Iraqi border.

[Correspondent] Concerning the conscripts and the batches that have been called, where are they headed?

[Al-Hashim] They are headed for the reservist brigade and the reservist command, and from there to their main units.

[Correspondent] Is there room for volunteers, for example, or does the situation not require this?

[Al-Hashim] Until now, the situation does not call for asking for volunteers, and we suffice ourselves with this amount of mobilization at present.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Brigadier-General Dr. Mohammad al-Hashim, can you say something brief to reassure the resident viewers and citizens?

[Al-Hashim] All we can say to reassure the citizens is that these are normal and natural measures taken by a country under threat from a hostile neighbor, or from near of far. These are natural measures that should not cause any worry.

[Correspondent] Dr. Muhammad, since we heard the news yesterday, numerous citizens and residents headed to the gas stations and cooperatives to buy foodstuffs and refuel, is there any reason for this?

[Al-Hashim] What the citizens are doing is abnormal. The situation is normal and does not require this need to visit the markets or cooperatives.

[Correspondent] Brigadier-General Dr. Muhammad al-Hashim, thank you for this meeting and we hope this is somewhat reassuring to the viewers. Thank you.

Plan Formulated To Safeguard Oil Installations

LD0810155994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait, 8 Oct—The Kuwaiti Oil Ministry today announced an integrated plan which could be used to tackle any possible emergencies following the latest Iraqi threats.

Oil Minister 'Abd al-Muhsin Mid'aj al-Mid'aj said the plan consists of taking necessary precautionary measures to protect oil installations, guarantee its operational effectiveness and ensure the normal flow of products. "The plan will be implemented when we feel a need for it," he said.

In a statement to KUNA, the minister reassured all citizens and residents about the availability of strategic reserves of combustibles, including fuel. He said supplies would last for a long period and stressed that there are no "justifications for a rush to buy fuel."

He described the current situation as "good" and said that "all precautions have been taken. Nothing is bothering us and we are not suffering from any problems in that regard."

Following the departure of Rolf Ekeus, head of the international committee in charge of removing mass-destruction weapons from Iraq, the Iraqi regime threatened on Thursday to carry out aggression if the economic sanctions were not lifted.

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The Iraqi regime followed up that threat by moving four military divisions from the Republican guards, consisting of about 50,000 men, according to media reports, toward areas close to the Kuwaiti border. They are still deployed there.

Dr. al-Mid'aj said that Kuwaiti petroleum establishments and companies are in constant contact and consultation among themselves with the aim of reaching a meticulous arrangement that will ensure the safety of their facilities and installations against any Iraqi threats.

Al-Mid'aj expressed his sincere hope that these expected measures in the oil sector "which are not yet in operation, would not be construed as a declaration of a state of civil mobilization or as a cause for spreading alarm and fear." He considers them to be ordinary measures that fall within the framework of the measures which the civil establishments should resort to as soon as they sense any external danger in anticipation of the worst possibility and to face up to an emergency situation.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah had earlier stressed that the government is closely watching all developments and movements of the Iraqi regime and that in coordination with its military and civil organs is capable of confronting the worst possibilities.

Kuwait last night urged the Security Council and the influential capitals of the world to take firm measures vis-a-vis the recent Iraqi threats against Kuwait and the region.

Government Sends 'Total' Armed Forces to Border

NC0810172294 Paris AFP in English 1701 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Oct 8 (AFP)—Kuwait's total armed forces of 20,000 men, backed by tanks and armoured vehicles, was being massed on the border Saturday to ward off any Iraqi attack, a senior Kuwaiti official said.

The order was given after reports that thousands of Iraqi troops were heading south towards the emirate, which Iraq invaded in August 1990.

"The whole of the Kuwaiti army, backed by armoured vehicles and tanks has received orders to head for the north of the country," the official told AFP.

Prime Minister's Statement on Situation

LD0810191294 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Statement by Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, in Kuwait on 8 October—recorded; first three paragraphs are announcer introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister arrived home, thanks to God's care and protection, this afternoon at around 1630 hours following a private tour that took him the United Kingdom and Italy.

He was greeted upon arrival at the airport by National Assembly speaker Ahmad Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Salim al-Ali, the commander of the national guard; shaykhs; ministers; governors; a number of high ranking government officials; members of the national assembly; members of Kuwait's municipal council, and a number of civil servants.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister made the following statement upon arrival.

[Al-Sabah] My dear brothers, sons of beloved Kuwait: I believe it to be my duty to address you in view of the difficult and critical situation confronting our dear homeland these days due to the Iraqi statement issued the day before yesterday. The statement confirmed again the Iraqi regime's intention and its expansionist ambitions.

As we study and examine the statement further, we realize that whoever formulated or approved the statement must have been aware that it is contrary to truth and reality. It also contains much injustice against Kuwait and its people.

The statement accused international parties, and Kuwait and some countries of the region in particular because, according to the statement, they were the cause of the continuing economic embargo and the starving of the Iraqi people.

Everyone is aware that there are many causes that the head of the Iraqi regime could have communicated openly to the Iraqi people and could have told everyone that the cause was the Iraqi regime, which is still deliberately refusing to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions.

The head of the Iraqi regime forgot, or wants to forget, that these resolutions were issued by an international organization, the UN Security Council, and that everybody must obey and implement all these resolutions. Brothers, the head of the Iraqi regime, however, wants to escape and avoid implementing these resolutions and sticks to a little part, paragraph 22 of resolution 687, which concerns the destruction of all weapons and military equipment. Who said that the aim from it is only the destruction of weapons and military equipment? No, the states of the alliance carried out an action that aims at liberating Kuwait and keeping the invading Iraqi forces away from all the Kuwaiti territory. This is Article 1.

As for the destruction of weapons and inspection, this is another issue. He has forgotten the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and has forgotten the occupation of Kuwait. Without the states of alliance and God's power, the Iraqi forces would have still been present on all the Kuwaiti territory.

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He has forgotten this first condition of the resolution and deceives the world saying Iraq has complied with the implementation of all the resolutions of the UN Security Council and paragraph 22 of resolution 687 concerning the destruction of weapons. He shouts and calls on the world to lift the blockade either partially or totally. O brothers, what is the meaning of lifting the blockade? Lifting the blockade means that Iraq can export oil and take the money and buy all modern weapons and equipment and invade Kuwait or the other states of the region once again so that it fulfills all its dreams. I will tell you O brothers, however, that since we got acquainted with the contents of this unjust statement which is full of accusations and hostile intentions against the Iraqi people...[pauses] I am not surprised, but it is possible that this statement or this third or fourth memorandum, aims at implementing the Iraqi intentions.

You have the right to ask and inquire about the measures that have been taken by the government at present and will be taken in the future. The government does not have any secrets hidden from my brother citizens. We all know and are aware of the measures that have been taken and will be taken during coming days. These measures are exemplified in maintaining the security of our beloved homeland and its people so that everyone feels secure and safe.

Here I am speaking to you in general without going into details. I will speak to the brother citizens on every occasion so that the picture will be clear to everyone. This is our destiny and this is our responsibility, which we will bear, and we will pay any price whatsoever to defend our beloved Kuwait.

Since the government studied the content of the Iraqi statement, it has hastened to work in the political and diplomatic fields. We have contacted senior officials in brotherly and friendly states and briefed them on the content of the Iraqi statement and the intentions it contains which constitute a danger, first to Kuwait, and second to the states of the region.

The current chairman of the UN Security Council briefed us on the this serious statement. The chairman of the UN Security Council understands the expressions contained in the statement which highlight Iraq's hostile intention.

The UN Security Council decided to summon the Iraqi representative and informed him of the council's rejection of the statement in letter and content. The Iraqi representative was asked to furnish the council with a clear explanation of the objective or objectives of the Iraqi forces' movement, even though inside Iraqi territory. The UN Security Council will convene today or tonight to follow up these events and their developments.

On the political angle, we have made contacts with brothers and friends. In fact we informed them in order to coordinate for collective media action.

There is a question which must be posed by many brother citizens, namely about action in the military field. I do not want to talk in a comprehensive and detailed way, because statements on this subject would be against security and military interests. However, I would like to reassure you that brotherly and friendly countries have taken urgent steps with regard to military presence here and in the region in case, God forbid, of an Iraqi aggression on our dear country.

I would not be broadcasting a secret if I said that the spearheads of air forces are in the region, and air surveillance is kept on the Iraqi [military] movement and the presence of Iraqi forces and its redeployment from one area to another. More multi-purpose aircraft will arrive in the region to provide security, protect Kuwait, and provide security for the countries of the region.

So now if there is anyone who says about Iraq that it is the economic blockade that caused the death of many Iraqis, I am now putting this question here so that it comes to the hearing of the president of the Iraqi regime, so that he can tell us how many Iraqis died of starvation.

But at the same time this is so that he should say to the world how many Iraqis died in the prisons of Baghdad as the result of torture, hunger, and mass killings. Let the president of the Iraqi regime tell us how many innocent Iraqi citizens were eliminated in the streets of Baghdad and outside Baghdad. The world knows.

Is it true what the Iraqi president has claimed—that starvation has caused the deaths of many Iraqis? We know that Iraqi depots are full of stored foodstuffs. We also know, and the whole world knows, that Iraqi depots are full of medicines. But for one reason and another, the Iraqi president wants to make the Iraqis believe that Kuwait is primarliy responsible for your deaths and the deaths of your children, and then America.

He forgot that America is a member [pauses]... And here I do not wish to defend the American position—America has its media and has replied to the claims of the Iraqi side. This decision was taken unanimously by all the members of the Security Council and the Iraqi regime was made to understand before 14 September that it should not go to any trouble again, because the members of the Security Council had no intention of removing the blockade, either partially or fully until the Iraqi side respected and recognized the sovereignty of Kuwait and released our POWs who remain in the prisons of Baghdad. This is the decision of the Security Council.

Iraq wanted to trick the world and deceive it so that the blockade would be lifted while Iraq itself approved this paragraph and that the blockade was continuing because of Kuwait and some organizations in the Gulf. O brothers, these are deceptions and lies. No rational person can believe them. But what concerns me as an official and a citizen is to say to you, sisters and brothers, that the responsibility is great and the task is difficult,

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requiring of all of us more forbearance, cooperation and sense of responsibility, and more listening to the directives and guidance of the military institutions and the other government bodies so that security can prevail and every citizens feels secure and stable.

I have received information that people felt anxious here. I do not blame any citizen for feeling anxious. However, one should distinguish between anxiety and fear. Of course, we ought to feel anxious about our future, about the future of our country, and the future of our children and grandchildren. But there is no need for fear. This is our fate. We are ready to die for Kuwait.

Iraq is completely wrong if it thinks that it could create fear and terror among the Kuwaiti's by merely making movements here and there. It is wrong because Allah Almighty is with us, because we are right and because all noble people are with us.

Nevertheless, we must not give Iraq a second chance to carry out its designs and schemes. We must always remember the treacherous Iraqi aggression of 2 August 1990. We must make sure that such a tragedy must never be repeated.

We must all work like one man to protect our country and repulse any aggression with the help of our brothers and friends.

We have informed our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council of Iraq's moves and its aims. I can assure you here that our brothers and friends have taken positive stances rejecting the Iraqi statement and reiterating their readiness to stand by Kuwait and protect its entity and independence.

I would like on this occasion to state the gratitude of the State of Kuwait, its amir, government, and people to the leaders of those countries for their stances that are sincere and credible and in line with the security agreements that have been signed between us and those friendly countries.

O brothers, we must all follow those development with caution and vigilance. I am certain though that the movements of the Iraqi forces, even inside its own territories, are under the surveillance of the right equipment.

O brothers, we are living, I will say this to you clearly and frankly and out of a feeling of responsibility, in delicate and difficult circumstances that require us all to forget the past and think about the present and future. Let us stop the talk of social gatherings, which is characterized by its huge amount and sometimes by ideas that are not aimed at closing ranks or uniting the word, but aimed at tearing apart the internal front. Enough of the huge amount of talk that took place, which has been repeated by some in many social gatherings.

Iraq must understand that all of Kuwait, with its men and women, old and young people, have agreed on one word, which is death for Kuwait [as heard]. [applause]

Thus brothers, our fathers and forefathers defended this good land and now this generation shoulders the responsibility of defending the sanctity of the homeland, its entity and independence, whatever the cost. We are all ready to sacrifice everything, to sacrifice our lives for our mother Kuwait and martyrdom is welcome.

This is not just required from a small number of citizens only, but I will say from all sections of the Kuwaiti people, its associations, organizations, unions, and clubs to help each other, unite work and ranks, and not leave an opportunity for the enemy to implement its hostile aims. This O brothers, is what I wanted to say on this occasion and I will tell you that my brothers, the members of the government, and I will meet as of now in order to get acquainted with all the measures that have been taken inside and outside Kuwait. You should know that your brothers working in military institutions, the Army, the National Guard, and police have taken the necessary measures. We will study these measures and if we find that the security requirements call for more measures, we will not defer things. All of us will carry arms so as to defend Kuwait. This O brothers, is our responsibility. This O sisters and brothers, is the message of the fathers and forefathers that we all carry, and we must appreciate this responsibility and cooperate with each other as dear brothers and go along one path, that of steadfastness and defense of our good land. We rely in this on the advice of the leader of our march, his highness the amir.

In conclusion, I pray Allah Almighty to bestow on our beloved country more blessings of security and stability and protect this country from all harm. Thank you O brothers. [applause]

Christopher Reaffirmation of Support Reported

LD0810185494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, during which he reaffirmed the U.S. stance regarding Iraqi threats and the need for Iraq's full compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

He also stressed the U.S. commitment to the sovereignty and independence of the State of Kuwait, its firm stance vis-a-vis the threats, and its condemnation of the Iraqi escalation that is a threat to the region's security and stability.

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister expressed the amir, government, and people of the State of Kuwait's thanks for the stance taken by the friendly United States, which made its contributions in the liberation of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that there was no Arab mediation to calm the situation between the State of Kuwait and Iraq.

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In a statement today, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the matter concerned international resolutions issued by the UN Security Council on the basis of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, and the Iraqi regime had to recognize the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait over all its borders and territory.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the government had taken all the necessary precautions and preparations in the light of the Iraqi escalation and its military provocations.

He stressed that there was no need for fear, and called on all the citizens to be a soldiers and guards of the homeland.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad also stressed that the stances of the brotherly and friendly countries were firm and principled.

Northern Region Declared Military Zone

LD0810234794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2150 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 9 Oct (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry announced the northern region adjacent to the Iraqi border is a military zone where residence and presence are prohibited. It is also prohibited to approach it.

In a statement issued tonight, the ministry pointed out that presence is prohibited in the northern region stretching from al-Sabiyah to al-Salimi from 2200 [1900 GMT] this evening until further notice.

It called on citizens who live there to abide by the instructions issued in this regard so that, "they would not make themselves liable to legal proceedings."

It is to be recalled that in accordance with Section 12 of the second paragraph of the Kuwaiti police law, the police have the right to use weapons against any person who is observed or tries to get into places that it is prohibited to enter.

Zone Extended

NC1010112294 Paris AFP in English 1116 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Oct 10 (AFP)—Kuwait announced Monday [10 October] it was extending its "military zone" declared two days ago to stretch from al-Matla', northwest of Kuwait City, as far as the emirate's northern border.

A defence ministry statement, broadcast by the official news agency KUNA, ordered all Kuwaitis and foreign nationals to evacuate the area.

Iraqi Allegations of Fishing Boat Seizure Denied

LD0910001694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2334 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations, 9 Oct (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait has denied Iraqi allegations regarding the seizure by the coast guard of an Iraqi fishing boat in Khur Abdullah and the arrest of the seven fishermen in late August 1994.

The Iraqi regime alleged in a letter to the UN secretary general distributed here today that the boat had been seized by a Kuwaiti patrol when it entered Kuwaiti territorial waters.

The Iraqi letter gave the names of six of the seven alleged fishermen. The Kuwaiti delegate, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, said in a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali that the Iraqi allegations "are totally untrue and the Kuwaiti authorities did not arrest any Iraqis during that period." He further said the Iraqi allegations are "a fabrication of an incident that never happened."

Foreign Ministry Official on Iraq Situation

NC0910070994 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, in Kuwait; by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-al-Majd] What is the truth concerning reports circulating about Iraqi troops massed on the borders with Kuwait; how does Kuwait view this matter; and what are the objectives at this stage?

[Al-Shahin] This matter is no longer subject to speculation. It was very clear in the statement issued by the Iraqi Revolutionary Council following a joint meeting with the leaders of the Ba'th Party chaired by the Iraqi president. The statement gave this crisis the necessary cover under which Iraq moved troops toward the borders. This was accompanied by a local media campaign against Kuwait, the United Nations, and the world. For many reasons, best known to the Iraqi regime, the situation has escalated to the present level.

[Abu-al-Majd] How far are these troops from the borders with Kuwait?

[Al-Shahin] As you know, there are common borders between Iraq and Kuwait. There is an arms-free zone, 10 kilometers deep on the Iraqi side and 5 kilometers deep on the Kuwaiti side. These masses are north of the arms-free zone.

We must note that they are not only military masses or movements. They have started to move civilian elements, for whom they built hundreds of tents in an attempt to push them into this confrontation for well-known reasons. In the past, the Iraqi regime has been trying to copy the so-called Aidid situation in harassing international forces. The Iraqi justification is that these troops are moving inside the Iraqi borders.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Ambassador, do you expect an Iraqi invasion similar to that of 2 August 1990?

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[Al-Shahin] I absolutely do not think so. Neither do the Kuwaiti people. These are maneuvers by the Iraqi regime to emerge from its isolation and attract world attention to the situation in a negative manner. However, when I say that it is a maneuver, this does not mean that we surrender to dreams. Expecting the worst, we made our calculations on this basis.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the Kuwaiti preparations for that situation?

[Al-Shahin] You know that Kuwait is a small state, in terms of population. It is big in the hearts of its brothers and friends. The measures started in Kuwait with an open cabinet session. Each ministry took up its responsibility. We talked to Kuwait's friends. His Excellency President Husni Mubarak was the first to talk to his highness the prince. He was the first to take the initiative to reassure Kuwait. Egypt has always proved that it is at the forefront of those who shoulder the entire Arab responsibility. This is its destiny.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the political and military action that will be taken at the next stage?

[Al-Shahin] The UN Security Council held a meeting and issued a clear statement. The message to Iraq was clear. At the Arab level, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid issued an Arab League statement. It is a clear and comprehensive statement that addresses Iraq rationally, telling it that this escalation is neither in the interest of this nation nor in Iraq's.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will you call a meeting of the Damascus Declaration signatories and will Western and Arab military forces arrive as a precaution against any potential threat in the next few hours?

[Al-Shahin] You know that there are agreements and commitments at the level of the Arab League and Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as security agreements of varying legal force with the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Naturally, there is clear respect and a sense of responsibility on the part of the states that shoulder their responsibility toward Kuwait, whether neighboring or Western states. We have to say that all the states linked to us with such agreements and who shoulder this responsibility have contributed and are playing their full role in this respect.

[Abu-al-Majd] Is there Arab or international mediation between you and Iraq to end this tension?

[Al-Shahin] There is no room for mediation at this stage. There are clear international resolutions. Nothing is easier for Iraq than to save itself by respecting these resolutions. Mediation comes when there is a minimum acceptable degree of confidence between the two sides.

[Abu-al-Majd] Iraq says that these movements are within the Iraqi borders and that it is not obliged to account for its troop movements within its borders. Is this acceptable under the present circumstances?

[Al-Shahin] We have to take the necessary precautions. But saying that movements are within the sovereign borders can only be acceptable when there is a state of reassurance and respect apart from escalated media campaigns.

[Abu-al-Majd] Have you received assurances from the Arab household or the key members of the international community concerning that tense situation on the borders with Iraq?

[Al-Shahin] There is full support from brothers and friends. They all stood with us and condemned this escalation by our neighbors in the north.

[Abu-al-Majd] How can this situation be resolved?

[Al-Shahin] The solution is in the hands of the Iraqi leadership alone. There are international resolutions, from Resolution 660 to 833. Iraq has declared its acceptance of some of these resolutions. However, what counts is implementing these resolutions. Relaxation begins when Iraq honors its responsibilities and commitments.

Interior Minister Calls Situation 'Stable'

LD0910161394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1448 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Oct (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah stressed today the cohesion of the internal front and said that the security situation in Kuwait is "stable and calm and that there is nothing to spoil it" despite the recent Iraqi threats.

Shaykh 'Ali informed KUNA that as all the organizations of the state are taking their precautionary measures and are ready to implement plans for any possible emergency, "the situation inside the country is tranquil and going very well."

He pointed out that the Interior Ministry is in "continuous contact and consultation with government bodies. Coordination is continuous between us in order to achieve a comprehensive civil security system able to face the worst possibility." [passage omitted including indistinct portion]

The statement emphasized that the Palestinian community in Kuwait, estimated at approximately 40,000 persons, is ready to stand by the Kuwaitis in defending the sovereignty of their country. The minister praised Kuwaiti help for and sacrifices for the Arab cause in general and the Palestinian cause in particular.

Cabinet Urges UN To End Iraqi 'Assaults'

LD0910191394 Kuwait KSC Television in English 1700 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cabinet held its weekly session today under the chairmanship of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd

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al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. In a statement after the meeting, the minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, said the cabinet monitored in its meeting today latest developments which emanated from the recent threats launched by the Iraqi regime against the State of Kuwait and the countries of the region. It also studied the military movements carried out by the Iraqi regime towards the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border area as well as the dispatching of groups of its agents dressed as civilians. The Iraqi regime planned to use them to instigate disorder and propagation [as heard] and to mislead the world public opinion and divert its attention from the main issue, which is the Iraqi indifference and noncommitment to the UN Security Council resolutions as well as its insistence to stall implementation of those resolutions, which is creating more tension in the region and prolonging the sufferings of the Iraqi people.

Al-Dakhil added that the cabinet also recorded with great satisfaction the firm positions of principle declared by the brotherly and friendly countries on the Iraqi regime's threats and propagations [as heard]. These positions have reflected full solidarity with the State of Kuwait and readiness to stand beside it in defending its sovereignty, security, and stability.

The cabinet welcomed the main statement which was issued lately by the Security Council and which expressed the Security Council's rejection and deep concern over the Iraqi regime's threats and which warned the regime against any aggressive action against the State of Kuwait.

On the other hand, the cabinet reviewed the reports related to the military preparations which were taken to face the Iraqi regime's threats and the details of the military buildup and troops that were sent by the brotherly and friendly countries to deter any aggression by the Iraqi regime's troops against the State of Kuwait or against any country in the region. The cabinet praised the level of preparation and expressed deep appreciation to the leaders and people of these countries for their firm action to meet the requirements of this serious development, which represents an outrageous defiance of the will of the international community.

The cabinet called on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and to put an end to the repeated violations and assaults by the Iraqi regime, whose existence represents a continuous threat to the peace and security of this vital area of the world, which will not witness any stability as long as the regime exists.

The cabinet also discussed the precautionary measures taken by the government's ministries and organizations in different fields in the framework of the plans with the objective of securing stability and all the citizens' needs in different fields. In this context the council [as heard] praised the positive collaboration and the active reaction which was shown by the Kuwaiti citizens beside their high morals which reflects the close unity of the nation and embodies the unity in the Kuwaiti society. On the other hand the council [as heard] approved to hold an extraordinary session on Monday 10 October 1994 to discuss the latest developments of the present situation and the threats of the Iraqi regime to the State of Kuwait.

Iraqi Opposition Spokesman Offers 'Full Support'

LD0910215994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2011 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 9 Oct (KUNA)— Dr. Salah al- Shaykhli, a spokesman for the opposition Iraqi National Council, has expressed his full support for Kuwait in confronting the new threats by the head of the Iraqi regime. He stressed that the international community is 100 percent behind Kuwait.

In an interview with KUNA today, Dr. al-Shaykhli stressed that 1994 is different from 1990, and warned that a military attack by the ruler of Baghdad would be suicidal for him.

The spokesman commended the swift military reaction of the allied countries to the Iraqi troop movements. Al-Shaykhli expressed his conviction that Saddam Husayn is playing a trick. However, he stressed the need for alertness so that the dictator will not have any doubts about the determination of the international alliance against him.

Al-Shaykhli told KUNA that the deteriorating economic situation in Iraq is one of the reasons behind the new confrontation between Saddam Husayn and the United Nations and the Western alliance. He said that there is a state of turmoil in the ranks of the Iraqi Armed Forces and the intelligence apparatus, as well as inside the ruling Ba'th Socialist Party, with the existence of indications of a revolution against Saddam Husayn. He added that the ruler of Baghdad is attempting to distract the attention of his "restless" people by concentrating the citizens' interest on his new threats to Kuwait.

Al-Shaykhli pointed out that between 80 and 100 Iraqi officers stationed in the north of the country are fleeing every day. He recalled that the Iraqi National Council was the first to warn the world of the new deployment of forces near the Kuwaiti border.

He said: "We expected the ruler of Baghdad to carry out a dramatic move because he met high-ranking members of the ruling party two weeks ago and informed them that if the United Nations did not lift the embargo, we would lift it ourselves by force."

Official Says Iraqi Troops 8 Miles From Border

NC0910184394 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Oct 9 (AFP)— Iraqi troops have advanced to 12 kilometres (eight miles) from the Kuwaiti border, a Kuwaiti official said here Sunday [9 October].

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"The Iraqi forces, estimated at 83,000 men in four armoured divisions, are now 12 kilometres (eight miles) from the Kuwaiti border—that is two kilometres from the demilitarized zone" between the two countries, the official told AFP, requesting anonymity.

Iraqi Forces Reportedly Said Not Set for Offense

JN1010055894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah yesterday admitted that the Iraqi forces deployed to the south of al-Basrah are not taking an offensive formation. He said the Kuwaiti National Guard has begun to [words indistinct] vital installations, including oil installations.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait asked the Americans residing in Kuwait to continue with their work as usual and to be vigilant and cautious.

Information Minister Holds News Conference

LD1010094794 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 0603 GMT 10 Oct 94

[News conference by Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah with international correspondents in Kuwait City on 9 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Sabah] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Brothers and sisters: I welcome you this evening and meet you journalists from local and Arab media. I will speak in Arabic to these people. After that, there will be a news conference for the Western media and everyone is invited to attend that meeting.

You are all earnestly following the events in Kuwait and on the Iraq-Kuwait border. I do not want to give you a long explanation of what has happened since the beginning of this current crisis, which came about after the statement issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command—a statement which contained lies similar to the letter sent by the Iraqi regime to the Arab League on July 1990 before its unjust aggression against the State of Kuwait.

I meet you this evening to give you a clear picture and all of the facts because we have nothing to hide from Kuwaiti media. We are very eager to convey all information with all trust and honesty to the Kuwaiti people and to everyone watching the situation in the region.

Since the beginning of this incident, the government has taken all necessary civilian and military security measures. All of the Kuwaiti forces have been deployed on the Kuwait-Iraq border, and all resources have been made available to ensure the security, stability, and safety of Kuwait from any adventure upon which the Iraqi regime might embark. We are also monitoring regularly the Iraqi forces' movements in southern Iraq, and it is no secret to you that all of the media reported the number of these forces and their concentration in the region.

The government, in all of its jurisdictions, has made the necessary contacts with brothers and allies everywhere in the world. You have also observed the international stance, which is represented by the UN Security Council, and the statements issued by all of the fraternal states in the Gulf, the Arab world, and allied states in the world condemning and denouncing such movements by the Iraqi regime. These movements came because the Iraqi regime ran out of ways to convince the international community and the Security Council itself to lessen the sanctions against it.

The Iraqi regime also claimed that these sanctions were causing starvation and disease in Iraq. We all know that it is not Kuwait or the allied states or the UN Security Council who are responsible for that. Only the Iraqi regime is responsible for starvation and disease in the Iraqi people's ranks.

In the Security Council resolutions, Iraq has the option of selling quantities of oil in order to provide food and medicines for the Iraqi people. But the Iraqi regime has chosen to use the means of providing food, medicines, and luxury goods as well, for the regime and its clique. We have not accepted nor will we accept, we have not allowed nor will we allow the tragedy of 2 August 1990 to be repeated, whatever the cost. [passage omitted]

There are military and security matters that I do not want to go into, but I would like to convey a message to reassure the Kuwaiti people and all those who are concerned about the Kuwaiti people that the situation is calm and that all measures and military arrangements have been made. At this very moment as we are speaking our arrangements are being made.

There is no doubt that the Iraqi regime will try and send people and troops to the southern region and their ruin, and if this is what the Iraqi regime wants, let the Iraqi people be aware of what its regime is doing by ruining them and its Army.

The message that I want to convey to you is that there is no cause for alarm or fear. [passage omitted]

There is also the intention of convening a meeting of the foreign ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states in Kuwait on the 12th of this month. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Kuwait next Wednesday. We welcome these initiatives and will undertake all the necessary contacts in this regard.

We are speaking from the standpoint of confidence and reality. We had to be absolutely sure that all the Kuwaiti media convey the truth and the facts to all the brothers so that there may not be any attempt to hide or (?distort) any information.

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I have come this evening to hold this talk with you and to listen to whatever you want to add to whatever information you had learned or heard from Kuwaiti, Arab, or foreign media. I believe that Kuwait is at present full of (?press), television, and radio correspondents. We are providing all the means to facilitate the task of these people in transmitting this message.

I would like to stress once again that the domestic situation in Kuwaiti has not changed. I had seen on television screens some reporters saying that there is a state of panic and fear in Kuwait. I do not see any cause for such an exaggeration. We have toured the streets of Kuwait and have seen that conditions are normal and that there is complete confidence. Government measures and all other measures that have been taken should inspire reassurance and self-confidence.

As I said earlier, I do not wish to enter into military details as these concern the military quarters. However, I say from a position of responsibility that personally I am satisfied with those measures in my capacity as a Kuwaiti citizen and as a Kuwaiti official. I wish this message to be clear and that there should not be any reason for misinterpretation, especially by the Arab press, which had been saying that the Kuwaiti people are in a state of panic. These are fabrications. The situation as we see it is tranquil and normal, and as you see it in the streets of Kuwait.

I hope that this message is clear and I hope that I will be able to answer your queries on this matter and all your questions, in addition to what you have already heard from the Kuwaiti and other media. We have made absolutely sure that the truth and the facts be the basis of our information policy vis-a-vis all the viewers and listeners to Kuwaiti media.

I will now let you forward any questions that you may consider appropriate; also I wish to be forgiven if I did not answer in detail any delicate questions that concern military and security matters.

[Passage omitted] [Bassam 'Aziz, Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR] Your excellency, the first part of my question is what are your preparations if the Iraqi regime sent a group of civilians to enter Kuwait? The second part is: Have the Damascus declaration states agreed to the convening of an urgent meeting as Kuwait has requested? Thank you.

[Al-Sabah] We have observed that the Iraqi regime has begun to amass some civilians [in the border area]. I also regret that some papers, including Kuwaiti ones, have described these people as bidun [stateless Arabs] of unspecified nationality. But these people are not bidun. They are members of the Iraqi Armed Forces in civilian clothes who were massed on the borders. I believe that Saddam Husayn and his regime may follow the policy of Cuba—in sending civilians across the borders. But this is the responsibility of the peace-keeping forces on the borders, the UNIKOM [UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] forces, and international bodies like the Red Cross and UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East]. We will not allow any of these groups to cross inside the Kuwaiti borders, and the necessary measures have been taken to deal with this. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Majid al-Jammal from AKHBAR AL YAWM] We understand the control over the external security of Kuwait; however, we have noticed that there are strict search operations and checks inside Kuwait. Does this mean that there are sabotage actions expected, which would create agitation inside? If the answer is yes, who do you expect to carry out such subversive or terrorist actions. Thank you.

[Al-Sabah] Thank you brother for this question. I mentioned that we have taken all the security, military, and political measures in this matter. This is an indivisible part of the security measures. I am surprised by this question, because when the country is in a situation like the one we are experiencing now with the border threats, it is natural that there are internal security measures so as to safeguard security and stability inside the country and this does not mean something else.

Please go ahead. There are 20 minutes left before the end of the news conference.

[Ashraf Fillisi from MENA] First of all I would like to know whether the volume of the foreign forces present in Kuwait now is enough for defending Kuwait. Second, it has been reported that Kuwait has called for forces from Arab states. Are these reports true?

[Al-Sabah] I mentioned at the beginning of this meeting that I would not touch upon the issue of military matters for security reasons; however, I stressed that all the measures that have been adopted are reassuring measures and protect the security and stability of Kuwait and would repel any aggression to which Kuwait might be subjected. We are not in the situation we were before 2 August 1990. The situation differs completely in its form and content. The matter now, and the forces I mentioned are forces that are sufficient for repelling any attempt by the Iraqi regime to violate the Kuwaiti border or destabilize Kuwaiti security.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your excellency, there is a big question mark on the Kuwaiti streets and in Arab and other states concerning the behavior of Saddam Husayn. What means has Kuwait employed to offset any scenario that Saddam might stage, and do you expect any surprises that we have been accustomed to seeing from him—meaning that he may be giving the impression to the world that he is about to embark on a hostile action against Kuwait while his aim is something else, for example, inside his own country. What surprises have you prepared based on your past experience with Saddam. Thank you.

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[Al-Sabah] We are quite used to Saddam's surprises. I had listened to all the press and information analyses on this subject and the motives that prompted Saddam to push these forces into southern Iraq in such numbers. However, I am not in a position to analyze this situation but I am going to deal with the situation that faces us. Most certainly there must be some deteriorating domestic conditions in Iraq, which in the first degree affect the regime. I will not, however, enter into analyzing the reasons behind the push of these forces. We are dealing with the reality, namely, that there are concentrations of forces along the southern borders and that all the necessary contingencies and precautions must be taken in this respect.

['Imad al-'Askar from KUNA] I would like to get your comment on the fact that no statement has been issued by the Arab League yet that supports the stance in Iraq [as heard] and condemns the massing of military forces.

[Al-Sabah] A statement was issued in this respect and I think that the statement by the Arab League secretary general was clear and frank. We have covered all these international bodies, whether these are the United Nations, the Arab league, or even ICO [Islamic Conference Organization]. All the brothers and his excellency the first deputy foreign minister are in continuous contact with these quarters and all these statements and stances have emerged clearly and frankly and there is no misinterpretation of these.

[Unidentified correspondent] Why has the official media not shown people how to deal with the state of emergency as in the past?

[Al-Sabah] I think that the official media have to carry out their duty as far as giving directives to the Kuwaiti youth and people are concerned and deal with the state of emergency that we are living now.

[Inal Arsan from REUTER] Your Excellency Mr. Minister, you said that you consider the people present on the Kuwait-Iraq border not as biduns but as elements of the Iraqi Armed Forces and that you would not allow these forces to enter the Kuwaiti territory. Does this mean that you will deal with them as military armies, and what means will you adopt to repel them?

[Al-Sabah] First of all, I would like to stress that the regime in Kuwait is not like the Iraqi regime, which does not recognize humanitarianism or human rights. I mentioned that from my knowledge this is from the Iraqi military ranks who wear civilian clothes, and Saddam intends to use them to put Kuwait and the international community in a delicate situation. As I mentioned, matters are left to the peace-keeping forces in the region, in the disarmament zone under UN control, and they deal with them there in the area that is 10 kms inside the Iraqi border and five kms inside the Kuwaiti border. Instructions were issued by the UN Security Council yesterday so as to give these forces more powers in order to adopt the necessary measures to deal with these groups. We do not resort to means of violence, and it is not in Kuwait's nature to violate human rights like that. I would like this to be clear and frank; there are measures adopted by the Foreign Ministry with contact with the Red Cross and the UNRWA and with the UNIKOM forces, which are in charge of the disarmament zone between Kuwait and Iraq.

[Husayn Jamal from MBC] Your excellency, you mentioned that the Kuwaiti Government has begun preparations with the GCC states for an emergency session in addition to the an emergency session of the National Assembly in the next few days. What are the arrangements for these sessions of the National Assembly and the GCC? The second question is: Is there any Arab or foreign mediation to reach a peaceful solution to this question?

[Al-Sabah] [passage omitted] The political movement on the one hand and the military and security movement on the other are all complementing each other. However, we will fill every gap in this connection. I would like my reply here to be clear and frank. [passage omitted]

[Mohamed Lamin Ould Ba from the Mauritanian newspaper EL BAYAN] Your excellency, you talked about the recent developments along the northern front. There is some information that coincided with the UN Security Council session that had been arranged to debate the sanctions against Iraq. Do you think that the sanctions are subject to the implementation of the Security Council or the continuation of the existence of the current regime in Iraq?

[Al-Sabah] First, we do not control this decision. The only quarter that has the right to decide in this matter is the UN Security Council. So long as the Council is satisfied that the Iraqi regime met all the resolutions, the Council is the one that has the right to decide regarding the easing or lifting of the sanctions against Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Husayn 'Abd-al-Rahman from AL-QABAS] Your excellency, what is the economic situation in Kuwait and the withdrawal of bank deposits. Saddam had fixed tomorrow, 10 October, as when he would clarify his stance. What do you expect from him with regard to the 10 October question? Thank you.

[Al-Sabah] Let Saddam fix whatever date he wishes to. We are not about to deal with Saddam according to the dates he wants to fix. There is an amount of real and frank data, coupled with the perils that we must confront. We also have in front of us an international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions that must be implemented and carried out. To the first part of your question—as I said—conditions in Kuwait are normal. We have not been notified of any movements or any financial transfers that are outside the norm to abroad. I stress, and at the same time I want to be clear with all the Arab and local media sources that are present with us here, that conditions are normal and that there

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are no transfers that are outside the daily dealing that is normal business in the Kuwaiti markets and business organizations.

[Faris Salman from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There is a Gulf force called the Peninsula Shield. It is currently based at Hafar al Batin [Saudi Arabia]. Is there any intention of recalling the GCC defense ministers to (?mobilize) this army or to bring the Peninsula Shield forces to the northern front, or, for example, to increase their strength in the future. Thank you.

[Al-Sabah] I believe that you must have followed the meeting that took place in Riyadh yesterday between the GCC chiefs of staff. [passage omitted]

[Name indistinct from the Cairo newspaper AL-WAFD] Your excellency, since the release of the Iraqi statement the Iraqi regime's tune has been to make threats. What has been noticed recently about this is that another tune says that there is no intention of entering into a war with the Western powers. How do you explain this?

[Al-Sabah] I do not, as I said before, want to enter into analyses or interpretations or any kind of predictions. In front of me there is an established fact and existing data with which I can deal. There are military concentrations that pose a danger to the security of Kuwaiti soil. We must take the necessary measures to put an end to this situation and to safeguard Kuwaiti security and stability. Whatever the conditions, I leave these political, diplomatic, and press interpretations and efforts to you as newsmen and writers in this regard. As for us in the government and as officials, we deal with reality. The reality is that which is facing us; we see it quite clearly and quite precisely. The continuous daily Iraqi movements have not gone unnoticed.

[Mahmud Harbi from the Cairo-based AL-'ARAB] Would his excellency the minister allow me to ask him about the present political stance of the states of the region toward the Iraqi threat to the State of Kuwait on the eve of 10 October?

[Al-Sabah] The political stance is clear and frank. I mentioned that all the brothers in the Arab world who stood by us are still with us, and they are making available all their resources at Kuwait's disposal. [passage omitted]

The political stance is reassuring as far as Kuwait is concerned, because all the honorable people stand by Kuwait. We enjoy full international support and if there are some exceptions, these do not concern us because these existed in 1990 when the Iraqi regime invaded Kuwait. This matter does not concern us. What concerns us are the honorable leaders in the Arab world. We appreciate their great stance and we will act accordingly. [passage omitted]

Thank you once more.

Prime Minister Addresses National Assembly

LD1010144594 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1003 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Address by Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah to a closed emergency session of the National Assembly in Kuwait City on 10 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Praise be to God, creator of the universe; prayers be upon Mohammad, the last of the prophets and the most honorable messenger.

Brothers, the speaker and members of the honorable National Assembly: On this occasion convening your honorable council to discuss the Iraqi threats to our beloved country, I want to say for myself and on behalf of my brother members of the government that I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to your council for this invitation, which carried much meaning in Kuwaiti, Arab, regional, and international terms.

This meeting today highlights many images, the most prominent of which is the awareness of the members of your honorable council about the gravity of the responsibilities, and its realization that the time has come for us to discuss the Iraqi threats and for your honorable council to be briefed about the steps and measures taken by the government first in the security field and second with regard to political and diplomatic action and contacts with brothers, friends, and international organizations.

At the forefront of these organizations comes the international organization, that is, the United Nations. The world was surprised by the Iraqi statement, which was made by the Revolution Command Council. All of us in this country are not surprised today and we will not be surprised tomorrow or during the next few days to hear such statements, which have highlighted in the past and will highlight in the future the expansionist intentions of Iraq and its ambitions.

During the past few days, the government has carried out the necessary role of keeping the fraternal states that stood by us in the political and information arenas informed from the first hour in August 1990. These stances were crowned by the participation with armed forces for the liberation of Kuwait by driving out the invading Iraqi forces.

Brothers, the positive stance of the fraternal countries is being renewed this week after acquainting themselves with the content of the Iraqi statement. The response or responses were positive. I would like once more to highlight the positions of these countries, their support consolidation, and also their readiness to preserve our dear country's entity, and repel any external aggression.

From here, I find it incumbent on me to express all thanks and appreciation to the positions of these fraternal countries, which announced their readiness to stand beside the Kuwaiti Armed Forces in defense of our country and our people.

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All of you brothers have followed up on the contacts. Following my arrival at Kuwait Airport the day before yesterday, I talked directly to my brothers the citizens about the steps taken by the government. I said in that address that there were also numerous measures and steps that would be taken over the following few days in the light of the recent developments in the political and military arenas.

As I said in my address to brother citizens, I do not want to talk about this issue, particularly of the military angle, because that would be against the country's interest. However, that does not mean that we should hide from your honorable council the steps taken by the government.

The government will always be pleased to meet your honorable council and the specialist committees to discuss all these measures, and to hear your views and proposals which would assist the brother members of the government to take more steps and measures as dictated by the interest of the country and citizens.

I am fully prepared to talk candidly so that your honorable council would be aware of the measures taken, particularly in the security and military fields. However, in a public session, I would ask to be let me be reserved about matters concerning the military field.

I believe that all of you here appreciate that the current circumstances through which Kuwait is passing require me in the same way as they require you not to publish or spread such information because they directly harm the security and military situation.

Here, I do not mean to keep the Assembly or its committees in the dark about this subject because this battle is a battle that concerns all of us. I said in the past and I say now and in the future that things had been said by the government, the national Assembly, and other constitutional establishments. First and foremost, we must remain as brothers and must cooperate and remain in solidarity with one another so that if the time came to bear arms all of us will bear arms to defend Kuwait whatever the nature of our work as members of the government and the National Assembly, in time of need and in time of crises. A situation like this calls upon all of us to live up to our responsibility and it calls on us to have more solidarity and to do more earnest work to repel aggression and teach a lesson, now and in the future, to anyone who wants to commit an aggression against Kuwait and the people of Kuwait.

The message we have received from the fathers and forefathers is to preserve the entitr of the country and the security of its people and not allow any greedy person to take the opportunity and carry out his aggressive aims.

From my feeling of responsibility, I am aware of the feelings of all my brothers the citizens, and I know the measures and steps they want to discuss to be assured at present and in the future, that the government is alert and conscious, and that as the government has followed up on the past, it is continuing and will continue to take such measures which the country's interest require in all spheres.

Brothers, Mr. Speaker, and members of the National Assembly, I tell you in this public session that the matters and conditions in the military arena have greatly changed in Kuwait's favor and will also change over the coming few hours.

I do not see any reason for worry or fear as numerous of my brothers citizens have been experiencing. Today, what I am telling you, and let it reach as many of my brothers the citizens, is to unify action and rank so that all of us stand to repel and expel the Iraqi aggression.

I have actually heard that because of their great anxiety, a lot of people went to cooperative societies to buy foodstuffs. Some of them went to gas stations to fill the tanks of their cars. At this session I would like to speak to my brother citizens and urge them to feel that there is safety and stability. They should not be influenced today or tomorrow by hearsay and rumors aimed at spreading confusion and creating an atmosphere of instability and insecurity.

I stress to my brother citizens that the cooperative societies are full of foodstuffs. According to the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the concerned bodies will facilitate the supply of these commodities to citizens so that they are assured that no harm will come, or that there is no cause for such anxiety. Foodstuffs are abundant, and we will increase the amount that is available. Water is abundant and gas stations are full. There is no cause for such anxieties or fears.

I even heard that many citizens entered Saudi Arabia. This is contrary to the truth and reality. The average number of Kuwaiti brothers who left to spend Thursday and Friday, was less after I heard the Iraqi statement, only half what it was before it. This contradicts the misleading rumors which aim to create confusion and divide the citizens.

It is the fate of us all, men and women, to stand today and tomorrow in defense of the entity of our homeland.

I believe that you will stand by me and say no, the current serious situation requires from us all to be aware of our responsibilities and force us all to stand united; one heart and one arm. The slogan of everyone will be steadfastness, cooperation, and defense of this good land, which was defended by our forefathers.

It is impossible that we will surrender or fulfill the demands of the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad today or tomorrow. When the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad broadcasts such statements he believes that the members of the Security Council, first, will change their minds, as will Kuwait, whom—in addition to some

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Gulf organizations—the head of the Iraqi regime has accused of standing behind the continuation of the embargo against Baghdad.

I tell you as a citizen and an official: Yes, the embargo against Iraq will continue because it is a result of its aggression against Kuwait and its peaceful people. Iraq and its henchmen must pay the price. The economic embargo was a result of its treacherous aggression against Kuwait. Iraq is making every effort to get out of implementing all the UN Security Council resolutions, but every country in the world has discovered the aims and intentions of Iraq.

I tell you as a citizen and an official: Yes, the embargo will continue against Iraq, because this is a result of its aggression on Kuwait and its peaceful people. Iraq and its henchmen must pay the price. The economic embargo has come as a result of its treacherous aggression on Kuwait. It is trying in many different ways to evade the implementation of all the Security Council's resolutions, but every country in the world has discovered Iraq's objectives and intentions. The first resolution adopted by the Security Council members was to reject the Iraqi statement, and the Iraqi envoy was informed that the statement was turned down by all the Security Council members. The council met for the second time and issued another statement, in which it demonstrated a firm stance, and that the report; Ekeus's report, the UN Security Council's special envoy responsible for monitoring the destruction of mass destruction weapons; this report will not be presented today. This report will be presented to the UN Security council tomorrow or the next day.

This is a lesson or a message to the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad, that the UN Security Council will not under any circumstances be drawn into responding to the threats of the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad.

This is the first message. In the second message, the Iraqi envoy was asked to reply to the council about the reason or reasons that caused the Iraqi authorities to move some Iraqi Army units from the north to the south, and from the center to the south, but the Iraqi envoy said that the military authorities were free to move Iraqi forces inside Iraq.

However, we are aware of the objective or objectives behind the troop movements. We know now where there these troops are deployed. There are evidence indicating that it is an operation of preparedness and readiness.

Monitoring and surveillance operations will continue until everyone is reassured that the Iraqi forces, which came from various areas, had returned to where they were deployed before the Iraqi statement was issued.

I told the brothers after my arrival at Kuwait airport that I would speak to my brother citizens on every occasion openly and honestly. I will tell everyone about the measures and steps taken and to be taken in the security, political, media and military fields without expanding on the measures taken in the military field.

I will meet my brother heads of cooperative associations, public benefit associations, sports clubs, and all vocational federations.

I will speak candidly and clearly to everyone so that we would all be united to defend our country first and to safeguard the security of the homeland and the citizens at home.

We must not be affected, respond or listen to talks and rumors aimed at weakening the home front.

From this rostrum, I urge brother citizens to pursue the elements which spread these rumors. They must be pursued from one area to another. The information about people spreading rumors must reach all those working in military institutions, so that we could all work to safeguard the security of the homeland and the citizens.

Mr. Speaker, members of the National Assembly: As I briefed you at the beginning of this session, in general terms and without going into details, on the steps and measures taken to reassure everyone that the measures taken will guarantee that the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad does not have the chance to carry out the hostile intentions he has in mind.

Let the world, the whole world, hear that the sons of Kuwait—men, young men, elderly, and youths—have made a pledge to God to sacrifice everything to defend this peaceful small country.

We have not and will not attack any country. On the contrary, this small country astounded the world with its steadfastness and the courage of its people during the treacherous Iraqi occupation. The world was amazed how this small people was able to stand up to and stand fast before the Iraqi forces, which were armed with various weapons, despite the torture and mass killing.

This people, believing in its creator and its right to an honorable life, did not resort to subservience and bowing in response to the demands of the Iraqi forces.

History is repeating itself. We stood fast in the past and we shall stand fast now to make the world understand that this small people is big in its ambitions, big in its hopes, and also big in its courage.

Yes, these messages should reach the head of the ruling regime and his henchmen.

These are responsibilities of us all and it is impossible for us to shy from shouldering this mission neither at the present nor in the future regardless of the sort of responsibilities and regardless of the price we have to pay in order to protect our country and our people.

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For the second time and the third I would like to thank you, brothers, Speaker, and members of the National Assembly for your request to hold this session in order to listen to what the government has to say on this matter.

This was a wish that I entertained from some time, however, now is not the time for settling scores or apportioning blame. We are all now in the same ship. Let us work together toward the arrival of the Kuwaiti ship to the shore of safety and then we can talk frankly and with credibility about the reason or reasons that gave the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad the wrong picture about the cohesion of the internal front in Kuwait.

I want to conclude this speech by a saying of the almighty God: "Verily God will defend from ill those who believe; Verily, God loveth not that is a traitor to faith, or shows ingratitude." [Koranic verse] God the great has spoken the truth. Peace and God's compassion and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Assembly Issues Statement

LD1010203494 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the National Assembly on Iraqi threats to Kuwait and the region:

The National Assembly convened this morning in an emergency session to look into developments in the situation and the Iraqi regime's threats to the State of Kuwait.

The Assembly reviewed details of the steps taken by the government to confront the serious escalation created by the Iraqi regime, represented in the threats made against the State of Kuwait, the region's states, and the international community, in moving its military forces towards the Kuwait-Iraq border area and massing groups of elements in civilian clothes near the border with Kuwait.

The National Assembly followed with satisfaction the active diplomatic contacts made by the government with brotherly and friendly states, in which they reaffirmed their unyielding and firm stances of rejecting the Iraqi regime's threats and supporting the State of Kuwait in protecting its security and safeguarding its sovereignty and independence.

The Assembly also followed the measures and preparations adopted by the government in other fields with a view to providing security and reassurance for citizens and ensuring the provision of all their needs.

The Assembly stressed its pride in the Kuwaiti Armed Forces and commended the high morale of the Kuwaiti people, while calling for continued care and precaution.

The National Assembly expresses its full solidarity with the government and its support for the measures taken by it to confront the Iraqi regime's threats, stressing that the Kuwaiti people were behind their leaders to protect the country's security and stability and maintain its sovereignty and independence.

It also stresses its appreciation of the principled and good stances of the brotherly and friendly states in support of the Kuwaiti right and against the Iraqi threat.

The National Assembly also records its thanks and gratitude to brothers and friends; equally those who have taken the initiative by sending their forces to repulse any aggressive attempt by the Iraqi regime's forces in accordance with international commitments and those who have declared their support for Kuwait's right.

The Assembly looks forward with great interest to the forthcoming Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] ministerial meeting due to be held in Kuwait on 12 October.

It expresses thanks and appreciation to the brothers in the GCC for their prompt response to the invitation for the convening of an emergency session out of their feeling of responsibility and common destiny to confront this aggression.

The National Assembly also stresses that the continued economic embargo on the Iraqi regime in implementation of international resolutions was due to the Iraqi regime's obstinacy and its refusal to implement the international resolutions.

The National Assembly also thanks the UN Security Council for rejecting the threats, and calls on it to continue the pressure on the Iraqi regime until it responds to the implementation of all the resolutions without stalling or picking, in view of it being the ideal way to bring about security and stability in the region and the whole world.

May God be on our side.

Situation Said Not Warranting Arab League Meeting

NC1010141494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo, has ruled out the possibility that the Iraqi regime may repeat the events of 2 August 1990.

Speaking to journalists today after meeting Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Ambassador al-Bu'ayjan stated that the Iraqi president is acting in a theatrical way devoid of any sense of responsibility to his people; he is trying to restore his name and is seeking a way out of the predicament he has gotten his country into.

The Kuwaiti ambassador explained that Saddam shows no sense of responsibility to his people. This is a man who resorts to cutting off people's ears, pushes his own people to the border, and is handling his country's affairs in such an irresponsible way at a time when his people

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are experiencing a famine, or so Saddam claims, he added. He noted that while the Iraqi regime is complaining of the international resolutions imposing sanctions on Iraq and at a time when the world community is trying to solve the matter peacefully, we find that the Iraqi regime is warning the world, setting a deadline for this warning, and is escalating things once again by continuing to send his best troops to the front. The Kuwaiti ambassador held the Iraqi regime responsible for any fighting that may occur or blood that may be shed.

Regarding Kuwait's position on calling an urgent session of the Arab League Council, the Kuwaiti ambassador said that the situation so far does not warrant such a meeting, which could result in inter-Arab differences. At the same time, he emphasized that Kuwait would like to see a unified Arab position and to see all differences cleared up. [passage omitted]

More 'Stateless Arabs' Pitch Tents on Border

NC1010152294 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Oct 10 (AFP)—Stateless Arabs, known as "bidun," are continuing to pour into the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border region and are now less than one kilometre (half a mile) from the demilitarized zone separating the two countries, a UN official said Monday.

Vesselin Kostov, spokesman for the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), said the "bidun" had been arriving in the border region all day by bus, where more tents were being pitched "constantly."

The new arrivals were "mostly men," Kostov said. "They have not organised any demonstration yet, but are staying in their tents quietly."

UNIKOM said Sunday that 6,000 tents belonging to biduns had been pitched near the disputed port city of Umm Qasr, 130 kilometres (80 miles) north of Kuwait City. It said their numbers were expected to swell to 20,000.

Before Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the town which then had 500,000 residents belonged entirely to Iraq.

Baghdad says the bidun, expelled from Kuwait after U.S.-led coalition forces drove Iraqi troops out of the emirate in February 1991, are demanding the right to return.

Kostov said Sunday the UN had expressed its concern to the Iraqi Government about the gathering on the border.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah said the bidun were Iraqi soldiers disguised as civilians.

Kuwait has deployed its entire army of 20,000 men backed by dozens of tanks along the border, facing 83,000 Iraqi troops it said were massed near the demilitarized zone.

Iraq does not recognise the new border drawn up by the United Nations after the Gulf war.

Minister Says 'Too Early' To Talk of Withdrawal

LD1010205894 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah "at the front line" by Muhammad al-Qahtani on 10 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Qahtani] Defense Minister, you are now at the front line and I would like to know your impression and opinion of the preparations and deployment of the Kuwaiti Army and the U.S. Army at the borders. Also I would like to hear your opinion of the claims, which were relayed recently, that there has been some withdrawal or what could be called redeployment. What is your opinion, Minister?

[Al-Sabah] I am now on an inspection tour visiting my brother officers and soldiers who are at the front line. I am accompanied by Major General Khalid al-Amir, Brigadier General Ya'qub al-Sawti, and Colonel Muhammad al-Harami. We are now with the front-line battalions of our brave forces. Praise be to God, the forces are deployed and are completely ready in their positions. We are ready to repel any attack against our dear country.

As for the news you are talking about, I have heard this but until now I have not yet seen anything indicating that the enemy is withdrawing from his positions. I think it is too early for me to talk about this issue. We must [words indistinct] the enemy's withdrawal from this area in which he is stationed and which is 20 km away from our northern borders.

[Al-Qahtani] So you consider it too early to comment on such news, particularly as the American stance, until very recently, was that the preparations were continuing, the build-up of the forces and their deployment to the borders were continuing, and the news of a withdrawal has not yet been confirmed?

[Al-Sabah] It is true that the first batch of U.S. forces has now arrived in Kuwait; the troops are collecting their equipment from their camps in Kuwait and taking up position at the front line.

[Al-Qahtani] Defense Minister, in your opinion, what are the measures that will be adopted if the forces of the Iraqi regime adopted attacking positions?

[Al-Sabah] We will be ready for them. We hope that they will not take such a measure. However, if they take it we

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will be ready for them. My military brothers and colleagues are fully prepared. The plan is there to repel any attack against our beloved country.

[Al-Qahtani] Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud, I am very grateful and I would like to convey the greetings of all those who work in the field of information to our brothers and colleagues at the front line.

[Al-Sabah] You are welcome and thank you.

Chief of Staff on Preparedness of Army

LD1010214794 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min, the chief of general staff, emphasized that the Kuwaiti forces were ready to repel any attack that could be launched by the forces of the Iraqi regime, which were gathered near the Kuwaiti borders.

[Unidentified correspondent] The front line and the preparations to defend the national soil: Here at the front line of the Kuwaiti borders, at the front line the Kuwaiti fighting soldier, the loyal son of this country, is prepared and enjoys high fighting moral.

As the heir apparent and prime minister has said: 2 August will not be repeated, and we will not allow it to be repeated in our country because the sons of Kuwait, the united Army, and united homeland and people will not allow it to be repeated. Defending the homeland is the duty of everyone who is loyal to this dear country.

Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, chief of general staff, with these preparations, with this Kuwaiti force and this high moral, could you tell the brother citizens about the situation here at the front line?

[Mu'min] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In fact military measures have been adopted that are commensurate with the situation. During the past few years, the Kuwaiti forces have gone through training experiences utilizing all our experiences and all the experience of the allies. The standard of training at all levels is high. Our preparations were implemented in accordance with military standards. Our deployment was in response to the threats against us. I think we should be confident that our measures will deter the enemy and, God willing, will be sufficient to repel any attack. Naturally, we are grateful to our political leadership, headed by his highness the supreme commander, for its confidence in us and its guidance to us. These are strong incentives to every military person. The leadership's words have reached all the Kuwaiti military personnel at the front line. I think we have the right to have confidence in the Kuwaiti forces and the measures adopted in accordance with military standards.

We hope that God will guide us in carrying out our mission in the best possible way, and that we will satisfy our Kuwaiti people and our political leadership.

[Correspondent] God willing. Thank you chief of general staff.

Kuwaiti Official on Israel Joining Coalition

TA1110071694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In an interview with our correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts, Kuwait's deputy defense minister said that Saddam Husayn's announcements regarding the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from the Kuwaiti border are not to be believed and that the Kuwaiti and coalition forces should maintain a state of high alert. As for Israel's possible participation in the coalition, the deputy minister says that this would require the agreement of all the Gulf states and politely refers us to the United Nations. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports from Paris.

[Begin recording] [Kouts] The Iraqi forces marched to the Kuwaiti border and perhaps will now march back. The Kuwaiti deputy defense minister ('Adil al-Warwar), who is currently attending the multilateral talks on arms control in Paris, said that he does not believe Saddam Husayn whether the Iraqi leader threatens to attack or declares a withdrawal.

[(Al-Warwar), in English] What he said now, that he is withdrawing his troops from Kuwait, I think this is bluffing because we know Saddam, we have experienced that in 1990 and we will never trust him again. That is why actually the Kuwaitis are not like before. They are ready now. They are not willing to have the same problem again. And we still have our allies and friends and we have our legal rights.

[Kouts translates above remarks and continues] The deputy defense minister said that the Iraqis were carrying out political maneuvers to deflect attention from the crisis in Iraq which Saddam Husayn brought upon his people. Saddam Husayn, he added, was one of those leaders who sought to become a Caesar or something of the sort. However, the situation in our world has changed. There is a United Nations, the principle of sovereignty. Therefore, we cannot believe him any more and our Army and all its allies shall maintain a level of high alert. We asked the Kuwaiti official about the possibility of Israel participating in the coalition forces in the event of a war. The Kuwaiti deputy defense minister was somewhat flustered.

[(Al-Warwar), in English] This question, you know, is really bigger than me because we are part of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries, and any diplomatic solution or idea has to be from this party. I am sure that we did not have any agreements with Israel, and if Israel is willing to participate this will be in the United Nations spectrum and this is not for our idea to say that. [passage omitted] [end recording]

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Bahraini Aircraft Arrive To Help Confront Iraqis

LD1110103594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 11 Oct (KUNA)—A Bahraini squadron of military fighters and helicopters arrived here today in the framework of the State of Bahrain's contribution in backing the Kuwaiti Armed Forces in confronting the Iraqi troop build-up on the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Iraqi Withdrawal, Removal of Tent City Urged

LD1110134894 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, has said that there is no sign up to now that the Iraqi forces, deployed on the border, have withdrawn. In a statement to REUTER this morning, al-Shahin added that the statement of the Iraqi regime's ambassador to the United Nations, on the withdawal of Iraqi forces, was verbal, and he did not submit any document to the UN Security Council on this issue.

The Foreign Ministry undersecretary called on the Iraqi regime to take practical steps for the withdrawal of its military units from the border. He stressed that the international sanctions on that regime will remain until it has complied with all the UN resolutions.

Al-Shahin also stressed that it is necessary to remove the city of tents set up by the Iraqi regime for defenseless people north of the border. He pointed out that the inhabitants of the tents are Iraqis hired for organizing a demonstration aiming at getting unjustified international sympathy for Baghdad.

Minister Sees No Proof of Iraqi Withdrawal

LD1110135394 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has stressed that there is no confirmed proof that the Iraqi regime's forces, massed near the border with Kuwait, have started to withdraw.

He also said that he agrees with the contents of the speeches delivered by President Bill Clinton last night and by U.S. UN Representative Madeleine Albright.

In an interview with the American network NBC today, the information minister stated: The American presence in the region gives us great confidence.

He expressed his appreciation for the speed at which the U.S. Administration deployed its forces in Kuwait. He said that this has had a very good impact in reassuring the Kuwaiti people and the Kuwaiti forces.

Shaykh Sa'ud al-Nasir al-Sabah said: We have great sympathy with the families of the soldiers who came to Kuwait. He expressed his hope that there will not be any conflict as it is necessary to adopt measures to put an end to these attempts by the Iraqi regime.

Oman

Qabus Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Gulf Developments

JN1110082094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Salalah, 10 Oct (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, chaired a cabinet meeting today. At the beginning of the meeting, Sultan Qabus said that the Sultanate of Oman is following with concern the recent developments in the Gulf arena, represented in some Iraqi troop movements toward the State of Kuwait.

He said that the Sultanate, while coordinating with the Gulf Cooperation Council states to tackle these developments, hopes that these events will not develop further in order to maintain the security and safety of the region and the prosperity of its people.

The sultan also dealt with a number of issues related to the Sultanate's foreign policy toward brotherly and friendly states.

Qatar

Iraqi Envoy Received; Gives Briefing on Situation

JN0910195994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1903 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 9 Oct (INA)—Iraqi Ambassador to Qatar Anwar Sabri 'Abd-al-Razzaq this morning met with Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani.

During the meeting, the ambassador explained the real motives of certain parties that are hostile to Iraq and that aim to continue the unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. He asserted that Iraq does not want to escalate tension in the region, stressing that the movements of the Iraqi military units are a routine measure carried out inside Iraq's national borders. He, however, said Iraq will not remain idle regarding (?the continuation of this situation) after it has fulfilled all its commitments as stipulated in Security Council Resolution 687.

The ambassador added that Iraq, as it has always been, is completely ready to discuss any formula that will achieve regional security and stability away from foreign interference, in a way that will help achieve solidarity on the Arab and Gulf levels.

Saudi Arabia

Statement Stresses Support for Kuwait Against Iraq

LD0710224794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 7 Oct (SPA)—An official source has made the following statement to SPA:

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The government of King Fahd Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, God protect him, is keenly following the reports circulated by various information media, quoting sources that Iraqi forces have moved in a southerly direction near the Kuwaiti borders.

The source said: It would appear needless for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to affirm its consistent fraternal position by the side of the sisterly State of Kuwait in order to preserve its security and stability, and to protect its territory from any external aggression.

The source concludes its statement: Consequently, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses its insistence that Iraq abide by the UN resolutions, signed after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Foreign Minister Discusses Kuwait With Clinton

LD0810175294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1614 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 8 Oct—His Excellency U.S. President Bill Clinton held a meeting in the White House last night with His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister.

During the meeting they discussed the strong relations of cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America, and developments in the situation in the Gulf region and the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi ambassador to the USA, and on the American side by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, and presidential adviser Mack McLarty.

In a statement to journalists at the White House after his meeting with President Clinton, his royal highness the foreign minister stressed the stance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia alongside the brotherly State of Kuwait and the protection of its territory from any external aggression.

He said: "The Iraqi regime's movement of forces toward the Kuwaiti borders emphasizes the Iraqi regime's lack of concern about implementing the UN Security Council's resolutions; it is a continuation of the Iraqi regime's policies and a repetition of what it has done before."

He stressed that the behavior of the Iraqi regime threatened peace and stability in the region and must be confronted in a firm and resolute manner.

His highness also said "it is the duty of the member states of the Security Council to adopt a firm stance vis-a-vis the Iraqi regime's behavior in line with the firm stance taken by the United States to check aggression in this part of the world."

About the outcome of his meeting with his excellency President Clinton, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said "we have received full assurances from His Excellency President Clinton on the intent and determination of the United States to confront the Iraqi regime's actions, and we appreciate the leading role of the United States in this respect and hope that the American position will be a motive to the member states of the Security Council to adopt a similar strong position."

Replying to a question about the intentions of the Iraqi regime behind the movement of its forces toward the Kuwaiti borders, his highness said "what is important is the position the international community takes to check the aggression that the international community have to cooperate to confront."

His highness added "and if that position requires cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States, then such cooperation will take place immediately."

Answering a question about the measures taken by the United States to confront the Iraqi moves, his highness said "I do not want to talk about the details." His highness added "the actions of Saddam Husayn have put before the international community its responsibilities and we hope the international community faces up to these actions now with the same firmness and power with which it confronted the Iraqi aggression and invasion of Kuwait in the recent past."

Answering a question as to whether the Kingdom will allow U.S. aircraft to land in its territory, his highness said "the American aircraft land at present and will continue to do so."

Cabinet Issues Statement on Iraq-Kuwait Situation

LD1010205494 Riyadh SPA in English 1939 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Oct 10, SPA—Crown Prince Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard presided over the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah on Monday afternoon.

In the framework of the constant concern of the government of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on the recent developments that took place in the Arab arena, Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir told Saudi Press Agency that the Council, at the outset of its proceedings, reviewed political and military reports pertaining to the escalations generated by the Iraqi regime with its military mobilizations towards south—near the borders of Kuwait.

After reviewing the movements in south Iraq and in the light of information provided by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defence, aviation and inspector general and, views

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expressed by ministers on what is going on, the Council issued the following statement:

"In the framework of its steadfast position besides its sister State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to renew its constant keenness to support whatever that might preserve the safety, security and sovereignty of Kuwait against any foreign aggression.

The Kingdom would also like to express its full support to all measures that could be undertaken within the international legitimacy with an aim of maintaining security, lasting and comprehensive peace and stability of the Arab region.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to express its resentment and grave concern over the Iraqi military movements to the south towards the Kuwait's borders, and renew its persistence that the Iraqi regime must implement all resolutions concerning its aggression of Kuwait, which were issued by the Security Council in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion of the sisterly Kuwait in 1990.

Accordingly, and in compliance with the instructions of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and follow up of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince and the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made all precautions and completed the necessary preparations to confront any danger that might be faced by the region again."

Al-Sha'ir said the Council also discussed a number of domestic items on its agenda and made the necessary decisions on them, which includes the following resolution:

—"After seeing the resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 29, dated on 7-4-1412 [7 October 1991], and, the contents of a recommendation made by the Shura Council No. 1/4/14 dated on 10-9-1414 [6 April 1992], and the recommendation made by the General Committee of the Cabinet No. 255 of 21-11-1411 [date unknown], the council approved the third amendment of articles of the International Monetary Fund's agreement which was endorsed by the board of governors of the fund with resolution No. 45 C-2 dated June 28, 1990 according to the enclosed formula. A draft royal decree was prepared accordingly. [no closing quotation mark as received]

United Arab Emirates

Iraqi Threats, Troop Buildup on Border Condemned

JN0910184794 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait, Oct. 9 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] condemned the latest Iraqi threats and Baghdad's troop buildup near the border with Kuwait.

Kuwait First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad [words indistinct] a telephone call from the UAE State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, who expressed the UAE's condemnation of the Iraqi maneuvers.

The Amir of Kuwait H.H. [His Highness] Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received a telephone call earlier from the UAE President H.H. Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan who said that the UAE, member of the Gulf Cooperation Council which took part in the war of liberation of Kuwait, will stand side-by-side with Kuwait in the face of the Iraqi threats against its sovereignty.

Yemen

Use of Force Between Iraq, Kuwait Rejected

JN1010211894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

The Republic of Yemen has been following with extreme interest the reports circulated by world news media on the recent regrettable developments in the Gulf region. In this regard, the Republic of Yemen wishes to emphasize its principled and constant policy based on the noninterference in the domestic affairs of others, respecting the regimes and laws of every state, and rejecting the use of force to resolve differences.

The Republic of Yemen reiterates the need to overcome the serious consequences and effects of the Gulf war, the damage that it has caused to inter-Arab relations, and the negative results that have harmed the Arab nation and its supreme interests. Rupture, skepticism, and distrust has replaced cooperation and understanding among brethren. This requires a serious endeavor to clear the atmosphere among them and enhance understanding and dialogue to overcome the residues of the Gulf war, achieve inter-Arab reconciliation, and boost Arab solidarity and joint action in a manner that places the interest of the Arab nation above any consideration, enhances unity and cooperation among its children, and enables it to face up to all the challenges imposed on it.

Reiterating its sympathy with the plight of the brotherly Iraqi people under the continued economic embargo, the Republic of Yemen believes that it is high time a solution was found to this tragic situation. At the same time, the Republic of Yemen stresses that international resolutions should be complied with and that it rejects resorting to force under any justification. It will not accept any aggression by any brother against his brother, be it on the part of Iraq or Kuwait. It stresses that the sovereignty and independence of the two fraternal countries should be respected, and urges everyone to do whatever is necessary to calm matters, remove the causes of tension, and resort to reason to enhance regional security, stability, and peace.

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Spokesman Urges U.S. Not To Attack Iraq

NC1010222194 Paris AFP in English 2204 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Oct 10 (AFP)—Yemen on Monday urged the United States to refrain from attacking Iraq, as Baghdad announced it was pulling back troops massed near its border with Kuwait.

"It is necessary (for Iraq) to respect United Nations resolutions and (for the U.S.) to renounce force in order to settle all differences," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Yemen supported Baghdad during the 1991 Gulf War, when a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait after a seven-month occupation.

The spokesman, quoted by Yemeni television, expressed support for the Iraqi people and said "the time has come to find a solution to the disastrous situation" arising from UN sanctions.

"Yemen calls on the international community to work to restore calm to the (Gulf) region through using common sense," he said.

The oil and trade embargo, imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, has crippled the Iraqi economy.

Baghdad claims it has fulfilled UN conditions on the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction and long-term weapons monitoring, and insists the UN sets a timetable for the lifting of the embargo.

Iraq's withdrawal announcement came as U.S. soldiers began arriving in Kuwait to counter the Iraqi threat.

Kuwait had braced itself for a second possible invasion by more than 80,000 Iraqi troops who had advanced to within 12 kilometres (eight miles) of its border.

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Military Movements, Opposition Claims Reported

Kuwaiti, Western Concern Noted

NC0710162994 London MBC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a REUTER item transmitted a short time ago, U.S. Defense Department officials and diplomats have asserted that Iraq is dispatching military forces to the Kuwaiti border.

The Kuwaiti Government held an extraordinary meeting earlier today to discuss the new Iraqi threats.

Meanwhile, Britain affirmed that it will closely watch the situation on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

A short time ago, a U.S. Defense Department official said that Iraqi forces are moving toward Kuwait. However, he did not give further details about what is happening in southern Iraq.

This announcement confirms the two statements issued by the opposition Iraqi National Congress in London yesterday about suspicious southbound Iraqi movements.

A REUTER dispatch said a short time ago that unidentified diplomats have confirmed that there are Iraqi troop concentrations on the Kuwaiti border. REUTER described the development as an Iraqi political attempt to get UN-imposed sanctions lifted.

In a message to the UN Security Council, Kuwait said that a statement issued by a joint meeting of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and the Ba'th Party includes an open threat not merely to Kuwait but to Iraq's relationship with the United Nations, as far its implementation of Security Council resolutions is concerned.

In an extraordinary meeting today, the Kuwaiti cabinet discussed the Iraqi statement and the direct threat it included to Kuwait and to the region's security and stability.

Britain voiced concern over the reports about Iraqi military movements in the direction of Kuwait. It warned Saddam Husayn of the consequences of any miscalculation on his part.

We have just received a report from our Washington correspondent Hanan al-Badri that a senior U.S. Defense Department official affirmed to her that the United States will confront any Iraqi attempt to commit aggression against Kuwait.

Regime Refuses To Confirm, Deny Movements

NC0710181594 Paris AFP in English 1805 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 7 (AFP)—Iraq on Friday [7 October] refused to confirm or deny US reports of troop movements near the Kuwaiti border, saying Army operations within Iraqi borders were its own business.

"Iraq is not obliged to account for the movements of its Army, its deployment and its activities," the Information Ministry said in a statement.

In Washington, a senior US official earlier reported significant Iraqi troop movements towards Kuwait and warned that the United States would respond to any act of aggression.

U.S. Carrier Moving to Red Sea

JN0810142994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 8 Oct (INA)—A U.S. Administration official has announced that a U.S. aircraft in the Adriatic Sea between Italy and Yugoslavia has been ordered to leave for the Red Sea. Britain, meanwhile, announced that it will send a frigate to Kuwaiti waters at the request of the ruler of Kuwait.

In Paris, a spokeswoman for the French Foreign Ministry stated that France does not yet have sufficient information to decide if it will follow the example of the United States and Britain and send warships to the region. She added that no such decision has been made and that France is awaiting information and analyses to assess the situation. She also said that France does not have anything to confirm reports that said Iraqi troops are approaching the demilitarized zone.

In a related development, the French Army's Press Office announced that the Iraqi moves are, thus far, most probably part of exercises.

On the New York Stock Exchange, crude oil prices rose noticeably following reports on the Iraqi troops movement.

SAIRI: Iraqi Troops, Artillery on Move

NC0810142594 Paris AFP in English 1407 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 8 (AFP)—An Iraqi opposition group on Saturday [8 October] reported heavy movement of troops and artillery in southern Iraq, where several roads from Baghdad had been closed to all but military traffic.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said the army, including units of the elite Republican Guards, had moved missile-launchers and artillery from Baghdad toward Al-Kut and Al-'Amarah.

The two mainly Shiite Moslem towns are located at least 200 kilometres (120 miles) from the Kuwaiti border, where the United States has reported a military build-up.

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Several roads from Baghdad to the south have been closed to all but military traffic, said the Iran-based Shiite group, quoting sources inside Iraq.

SAIRI added that troops at the border with Kuwait had been put on a state of alert as well as military depots around the country, to provide arms and ammunition to army units.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 frontline Republican Guard troops have advanced toward the Kuwaiti border, raising the number of Iraqi troops there to 40,000, the United States said Friday.

A day earlier, the Iraqi National Congress opposition coalition which is based in northern Iraq also said Republican Guard divisions were heading toward the Kuwaiti border.

UN Spokesman Cited on 'Calm' Situation

JN0810153994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1437 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 8 Oct (INA)—A spokesman for the UN observers in the demilitarized zone, south of al-Basrah, has announced that the situation in this area was calm this morning, Saturday, adding that no Iraqi troop movement had been registered in this area. In a statement to the AFP, Veselin Koftov [name as transliterated], spokesman of the UN observers in the demilitarized zone, noted that everything is normal and quiet and that UN observers are deployed in the demilitarized zone.

The UN spokesman added that there is no sign of any military movement. He said: We are closely monitoring any abnormal movements of Iraqi troops. He said that the UN observers in the area are monitoring any military or civilian violations.

Opposition Reports 2 Corps on Border

NC0810164594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1510 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reliable information from al-Basrah, the Iraqi military troop concentrations on the Kuwaiti border grew last night to the size of approximately two Army corps after they were joined by three Republican Guard divisions. These are the Tawakallna 'ala Allah Division, the al-Madinah al-Munawarrah Division, and the Nebuchadnezzar Division. They deployed on the al-Zubayr-al-Basrah axis and the al-Zubayr-al-Nasiriyah axis [words indistinct].

According to information received by our radio, these units are the same ones that carried out the five-day al-Saqr al-Dhahabi [Golden Eagle] military exercise that was announced by the regime's defense minister, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, under the command of [name indistinct] who, after the conclusion of the maneuver, sent a cable to Saddam Husayn saying: We have trained a large number of our officers of various commander and staff ranks in a very large operation. The desired results of the maneuver were achieved through realistic handling of the circumstances of the battle.

Minister Confirms Troops' Location

NC0810192694 Paris AFP in English 1912 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 8 (AFP)—Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said Saturday [8 October] that Iraqi troops were only about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Kuwait but denied they were moving towards the emirate.

In an interview with Radio Monte-Carlo monitored in Nicosia, Hammadi said "the information given by certain Western radios that the closest Iraqi military presence (to the border) is around 20 kilometres away is true."

But he added that accusations that the troops were moving towards the emirate were "false."

Opposition Details Iraqi Military Moves

NC0810203694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—A statement by the Iraqi opposition tonight gave new details about the recent Iraqi military movements.

The statement, signed by the opposition "Iraqi Army Radio" and faxed to MENA, says that at 0400 on 6 October a state of alert was declared among all military units, security agencies, military intelligence, and general intelligence. The leaves of soldiers and officers were canceled and they were ordered to report to their units within 24 hours.

The statement says that more than 100,000 people in plain clothes have been amassed near the Iraqi-Kuwaiti-Saudi border.

It adds that this fabricated demonstration is aimed at pressuring the UN Security Council and the Special Commission supervising the monitoring of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction into lifting the sanctions against Saddam's regime.

The statement concludes: Thus, Saddam is pushing Iraq and its Army into a new adventure that will sweep away the country because he feels that our beloved Army is about to get him.

MENA on British Frigate Arrival

NC0910113094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1059 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 9 Oct (MENA)—The British Frigate Cornwall arrived in the Kuwaiti territorial waters today carrying a large number of British troops. The frigate immediately joined the Kuwaiti naval forces.

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An official Kuwaiti source told the MENA correspondent in Kuwait that the frigate took up position in the area of (Jun al-Kuwayt) and is on stand-by.

The source pointed out that British Tornado aircraft are expected to arrive this evening. Declining to reveal their numbers, the source said that the planes will join the Kuwaiti Air Force to coordinate action and perform the tasks entrusted to them.

Baghdad Calls Up 'Volunteers'

NC0910114894 Paris AFP in English 1112 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 9 (AFP)—Baghdad has called up young Iraqi "volunteers" to defend their country as it faces another showdown with the United States and its allies over Kuwait, newspapers reported here Sunday [9 October].

"The mobilisation was decreed from Thursday for the recruitment of young Iraqis to enlist them in the resistance," reports said.

They would "carry out missions demanded by present circumstances and to defend Iraq," they added.

Allied forces began arriving Sunday to protect Kuwait against a possible Iraqi attack, after the United States reported an Iraqi troop build up along the border.

Kuwait has deployed its entire army of 20,000 soldiers and dozens of tanks in the north of the country, while the US was sending 4,000 troops as well as warships to the region.

The General Union of Iraqi Youth launched the mobilisation effort in the capital Baghdad and in the provinces, reports said.

In al-'Amarah, south of Baghdad, several thousand young men and women have already enlisted as "volunteers to defend Iraqi sovereignty and break the unjust embargo imposed by the Americans and their allies," said the daily AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of Saddam's ruling Ba'th party.

The international embargo was imposed on Baghdad after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, before it was ousted by a US-led coalition seven months later.

Meanwhile AL-QADISIYAH, the armed forces newspaper, said Iraqi soldiers born in 1974 would be demobilised at the end of their military service next April.

The decision taken by President Saddam Husayn would be extended eventually to troops born in 1975 and 1976, the paper said, quoting Iraq's Deputy Chief-of-Staff General Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash.

Since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991, Iraq has demobilised several thousand troops and reduced compulsory military service for some sections of the population.

SAIRI: Regime Planning Attack on Shiites

NC0910155094 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 9 (AFP)—Baghdad is set to launch a new military offensive against Shiite Muslim strongholds in southern Iraq, an Iraqi opposition group said here Sunday [9 October].

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said the army had been deployed in strength over the past three days in villages near the southern provinces of al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah and al-Amarah.

The troops, backed by heavy artillery and missile- and rocket-launchers, intended to "attack positions of the opposition" in marshlands in the region, it said.

On Saturday SAIRI reported heavy movements of troops and artillery in southern Iraq, where several roads from Baghdad have been closed to all but military traffic.

It said troops on the border with Kuwait had been put on alert along with military depots around the country.

Baghdad crushed a Shiite Muslim uprising following Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war in February 1991, but some Shiites hiding out in the marshes continued to form pockets of resistance.

The United States spearheaded a build-up of allied forces to protect Kuwait Sunday amid reports of Iraqi troop movements toward the Kuwaiti border.

SAIRI: Baghdad Moving Chemical Weapons

NC1010141394 Paris AFP in English 1336 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcibed Text] Tehran, Oct 10 (AFP)—Baghdad has moved chemical weapons to southern Iraq near the border with Kuwait where a large number of its troops have been deployed, an Iraqi opposition group charged Monday [10 October].

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said special intelligence units had transferred the weapons to the southern provinces of al-Basrah and Al-Nasiriyah, where elite Iraqi troops were positioned.

The Shiite Moslem group, headed by Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, said the troop movements towards the border with Kuwait continued along Baghdad-al-Kut and Diwaniyah-al-'Amarah roads as well as from al-Nasiriyah to the south.

It added that tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers had deserted and sought refuge in northern Iraq or the marshlands in the south in anticipation of a new war.

SAIRI reported Saturday heavy movement of troops and artillery in southern Iraq, where several roads from Baghdad had been closed to all but military traffic.

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It said troops at the border with Kuwait had been put on alert as well as military depots around the country.

The commander-in-chief of the Kuwaiti armed forces, General 'Ali al-Mu'min, said Monday that Iraqi troops were reinforcing their positions near the demilitarized zone with forward units only 12 kilometers (eight miles) from the Kuwaiti border.

Dissident Radio on Iraqi Troop Movements

NC1010161594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our sources in the south say that infantry and armored units belonging to the forces of tyrant Saddam have arrived in the past three days [short break in transmission]. The majority of these forces are presently stationed in the areas opposite the southern marshlands close to the border with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Our sources in the south say the Islamic Resistance Forces [short break in transmission] obtained information given by high-ranking officers [short break transmission] and al-Nasiriyah. Some units have been ordered to carry out these attacks for fear that the regime's rear guard will be attacked by the Islamic Resistance Forces, which have also been put on alert and have mobilized their fighters in all the Iraqi marshlands, towns, and villages.

Meanwhile, urgent reports received by our sources say [short break in transmission] declared their rejection of the regime and their full readiness to cooperate with the resistance in any sphere.

UN Envoy on Decision To Move Troops North

NC1010160594 Paris AFP in English 1551 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, Oct 10 (AFP)—Iraq has decided to withdraw its troops from the area near the Kuwait border, its ambassador to the United Nations said Monday [10 October].

"Given the concern in the Security Council, Iraq has decided to move its troops" from the Basra area to another area further to the north, Nizar Hamdun told reporters.

The movement would begin "immediately", Hamdun said after meeting with British ambassador Sir David Hannay, currently UN Security Council president.

"The instructions have already been issued and the troops are already on the move," he added.

Baghdad's decision came as a vanguard of 800 soldiers from a huge U.S. task force arrived in Kuwait to counter the threat from about 80,000 Iraqi troops massed just over the border.

Kuwait said 83,000 Iraqi troops had advanced to within 12 kilometres (eight miles) of the emirate and were just outside the demilitarised zone between the two countries.

Al-Sahhaf Announces Troop Withdrawal

JN1010173394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Statement by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY on 10 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] In light of the contacts Iraq has had with world and friendly regional parties about its position concerning the lifting of the unfair sanctions in the last few days and the concern they have shown over the presence of units from the Republican Guard in al-Basrah and the suggestion by some that this deployment might be used by the United States to somehow escape the pressure of friends and the international community to change its intransigent position by retaining the unjust sanctions on Iraq; now that all are certain that regional security and stability cannot be achieved as long as the sanctions remain in place and its people are being hurt, and that coming to an understanding and lifting the embargo and not doing injustice to Iraq's rights is the only right approach so that each side in the region acts proportionately to its size and influence and capabilities and innovations to achieve security and stability in the region; and in view of these facts and in response to appeals by a number of friends, without infringing on Iraq's right to sovereignty and activity on its national soil, it has been decided to move the above-mentioned units to other positions in the rear in order to complete their scheduled exercises.

The foreign minister said: We hope that the diplomatic efforts expressed by friends and most members of the international community will lead to clear results by ending the unfair embargo and the harm inflicted on Iraq's legitimate rights.

Al-Sahhaf Informs Diplomats of Withdrawal

JN1010192594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—Late this afternoon, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf received the PRC ambassador, the Russian charge d'affaires, the Pakistani ambassador, the Djibouti ambassador, the Omani charge d'affaires, the Belgian charge d'affaires, and the Nigerian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

The foreign minister informed the heads of diplomatic missions in Baghdad, who represent UN Security Council permanent and other member states, of the decision to move the Republican Guard units—recently positioned in southern Iraq for routine training purposes—to other positions in the rear in order to complete their scheduled exercises in response to the appeal of a number of friends without infringing on Iraq's right to sovereignty and activity on its national soil.

The foreign minister also expressed to them the hope that diplomatic efforts will lead to clear and specific results in order to end the unfair embargo and recognize Iraq's legitimate rights.

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U.S. Reaction to Withdrawal Decision Noted

JN1010223994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi decision today to move the Republican Guard units, which were conducting routine exercises in southern Iraq, to rear positions to complete their exercises has drawn different reactions from the U.S. Administration in Washington. A senior official at the U.S. State Department has welcomed the decision. He said if what Iraq has announced is true, it will be a positive step in the right direction.

Diplomatic sources in Washington have expressed satisfaction with the Iraqi decision. However, they ruled out the possibility that this decision has been made as a part of a deal with the United States to ease the embargo against Iraq.

At the U.S. Defense Department, the reaction was different. [words indistinct] the Pentagon said experts there have so far not obtained aerial photographs of backward Iraqi troop movements, and that the plans to send U.S. troops to Kuwait are proceeding without any change yet.

President Clinton is expected to make a statement. [words indistinct] the reports on the transfer of Iraqi units from southern Iraq to rear positions.

The CNN White House correspondent said that if the U.S. Administration is sure that the situation has changed positively, the crisis, in its assessment, will inevitably be over.

Madeline Albright, U.S. representative to the United Nations, said that she will brief the Security Council on the developments, and that she believes that the Council members hope that those reports are true.

British Representative Hannay said that Nizar Hamdun, the Iraqi delegate to the United Nations, had informed him of Iraq's decision to move its Republic Guard troops to rear positions to complete their scheduled exercises. Iraq has stressed its right to deploy its Armed Forces wherever it wishes within its territory.

At the New York Stock Exchange, oil prices declined by 26 cents per barrel after the announcement about moving Iraqi units to rear positions. [words indistinct] during the past two days.

'Responsible' Sources Confirm Withdrawal

JN1110100494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0949 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—Responsible military sources confirmed today that the Republican Guard units positioned south of al-Basrah last night began moving in the direction of other positions north of al-Basrah Governorate to complete their exercises in the new positions.

Major parts of these units have, since last night, been moved northward. Movement is continuing intensively today.

Al-Sahhaf: Withdrawal Completed

JN1110131894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—Iraq completed at 1500, Baghdad local time, [1200 GMT] today the withdrawal of its armed forces from their command posts south of al-Basrah to their new rear positions. In a statement to INA, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that only two brigades from this force are still on their way to their new positions, adding that it is hoped that the two brigades will arrive at these positions within 24 hours.

Russians, Chinese To Verify Withdrawal

JN1110140794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1328 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—Iraq completed moving its forces from southern al-Basrah to rear positions this afternoon. Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf told this to INA today. He said that the military force about which the U.S. side created clamor, moved, along with its command posts, to rear positions at 1500 [1200 GMT] today.

The foreign minister explained that only two brigades of this force, which the leadership yesterday decided to withdraw in light of appeals made by friends, are now on their way to rear positions. He said it is hoped this transfer will be completed within 24 hours.

Al-Sahhaf asserted: We are emphasizing this fact, so that everything will be clear to the international community, and those having ill intentions will not persist in undermining the diplomatic efforts.

INA has learned from a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry that the Ministry will request the Russian and Chinese Embassies in Baghdad to entrust their military attaches to visit the area and verify that these forces have completed their transfer to rear positions.

SAIRI: Regime Attacking Southern Shiites

NC1110145994 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 11 (AFP)—The Iraqi army has launched a series of attacks on Shiite Moslem villages in southern Iraq, a Tehran-based Shiite opposition body said Tuesday [11 October].

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said "several Shiite villages" in the Al-'Amarah region had been "destroyed" in the attacks, which involved units of the elite Republican Guards.

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The Iraqi troops seized "dozens" of people during the operation which was still going on, SAIRI said in a statement here. They were now positioned in marshlands in the al-Basrah region.

The United States and its allies Tuesday dismissed Iraqi claims to have withdrawn some 80,000 troops massed near the Kuwaiti border to positions further north of al-Basrah.

AFP: 'Hundreds' of Army Vehicles Head North

NC1110150994 Paris AFP in English 1459 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Basrah, Iraq, Oct 11 (AFP)—Hundreds of Iraqi military vehicles headed north from the southern town of al-Basrah on Tuesday [11 October], an AFP correspondent reported.

The military trucks, tanks and other equipment were all marked with a red triangle, the emblem of Iraq's elite Republican Guard.

The AFP correspondent, who travelled 600 kilometres (372 miles) from al-Basrah to Baghdad, saw a long military convoy stretch along the road to the town of Kut, 168 kilometres (103 miles) from Baghdad.

'Owners of Rights' Stage Protest Near Border

Deportees Set Up Tents in al-Basrah

JN0710101294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah, 7 Oct (INA)—The owners of rights [ashab al-haqq] from among the deportees from Kuwait have begun setting up large tents at a camp south of al-Basrah Governorate.

An INA correspondent saw large groups of tortured deportees—who are demanding their rights to repatriation and citizenship as well as the release of their relatives from Kuwaiti prisons and detention centers—set up hundreds of tents with determination and vigor.

Some responsible quarters offered services such as water, electricity, and medical aid to the families, who are sleeping in tents in order to highlight the reality of their suffering and their cause to the world public opinion.

AL-QADISIYAH Cited on 'Sit-In'

JN0910071894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0413 GMT 9 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen: For the third consecutive day, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH was present in the tent city set up by the owners of right [ashab al-haqq], who are staging a sit-in in the desert south of al-Basrah to demand repatriation to their homeland, Kuwait.

AFP Details Demonstration

NC0910094094 Paris AFP in English 0828 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Oct 9 (AFP)—Thousands of unarmed civilians gathered Sunday [9 October] on the Iraqi side of the border with Kuwait to stage a sit-in demonstration, UN observers said.

The UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) stepped up its presence in the sector as a precaution, against the backdrop of the tension stirred by the build-up of Iraqi troops near the border.

Veselin Koftov, spokesman for UNIKOM, said the civilians had so far erected around 1,000 tents less than a kilometre (around half a mile) from the demilitarized zone on the frontier.

The demonstrators, who are stateless and were deported to Iraq from Kuwait after the Gulf War, were expected to number around 20,000, he said. They are known in Kuwait as the "bidun."

The protest was to take place near the port city of Umm Qasr, a part of which the United Nations handed over to Kuwait after the 1991 war which drove Iraqi troops out of the emirate after seven months of occupation.

"Their numbers are growing fast," said Koftov, adding that women and children were among the demonstrators, who are demanding the right to return to Kuwait and the release of relatives in Kuwaiti jails.

They arrived near the border on buses and taxis.

"The situation has not reached a serious level but the growing number means we have to be vigilant," said the spokesman. "For the moment, the situation in the demilitarized zone is still calm."

UNIKOM noted it had been informed in advance by the Iraqi authorities of the demonstration. Baghdad announced the protest last week, pledging its support for the bidun.

"No Iraqi military elements are accompanying the demonstrators, who are continuing to advance calmly," the spokesman said.

He said the 1,500 UNIKOM observers along the 200-kilometre (120-mile) border, including an armed unit of 775 Bangladeshis, were on maximum alert. Extra vehicles were being deployed in the Umm Qasr sector.

Before the war for Kuwait, 240,000 bidun lived in Kuwait but their number has since been halved, according to official figures.

Forward units of Iraqi troops totalling 64,000 men were reported Saturday to be just 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the border, prompting Kuwait to mobilize its entire army of 20,000 soldiers as fears grew of a repeat of the August 1990 invasion.

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The United States ordered 4,000 troops to leave for the Gulf region and Patriot missiles to be transferred from Saudi Arabia to Kuwait.

New Groups Head for al-Basrah Camp

JN0910154794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tikrit, 9 Oct (INA)—The masses in Salah-al-Din Governorate, 200 km north of Baghdad, have bid farewell to groups of Kuwaitis from among the owners of rights [ashab al-haqq] who have departed for the camp of the League of the Owners of Rights, which is stationed south of al-Basrah, to restore their legitimate rights.

The Kuwaiti citizens, who left Salah-al-Din Governorate in convoys of vehicle, thanked President Saddam Husayn and the people of Iraq for their generosity and care and condemned the crimes of the ruling regime in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti citizens called on world humanitarian organizations to support their return to their homeland to live an honorable life and to restore their legitimate rights.

'Civilians' Rule Out Crossing Into Kuwait

NC0910163294 Paris AFP in English 1545 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 9 (AFP)—Thousands of unarmed civilians camping on Iraq's border with Kuwait are staging a peaceful sit-in protest and will not force their way into the emirate, a protest organiser said Sunday [9 October].

Stateless Arabs known as "bidun" erected almost 6,000 tents in the desert less than one kilometre (half a mile) from the demilitarized border zone on Sunday, adding to tension stirred up by Iraqi troop movements.

Shaykh Zufayri, a founder member of a bidun rights group in Iraq, told AFP the camp was a "peaceful protest movement which aims to draw world attention to the situation of these Kuwaitis deprived of their nationality and civic rights."

Speaking in his Baghdad office provided by the Iraqi authorities, Zufayri said: "We are civilians, we have no weapons. We chose this area to camp in order to attract world attention."

UN military observers said earlier the Iraqi-backed protest was a "source of concern."

The bidun, deported from Kuwait in their tens of thousands after the 1991 Gulf War, were demanding the right to return to the emirate, where they had lived for decades, and the release of relatives in Kuwaiti jails, Shaykh Zufayri said.

He added that their return to the emirate would come about "not through force but by international pressure."

Asked about reports that protesters were advancing on the border, the shaykh said: "The camp is south of the Iraqi town of al-Basrah. But with their numbers growing day by day, they need more room and have to pitch their tents where they can."

He refused to reveal how many bidun tribesmen had gathered for the protest except to say "there is a large number of them, and every day it is growing."

Earlier reports said the number of demonstrators was expected to swell to 20,000.

A spokesman for the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) said: "We don't know their real intentions and the continuous influx of more arrivals is a source of concern."

Shaykh Zufayri, himself from Kuwait, recently set up a rights group for "bidun" in Iraq called Ashab Al-Haq.

Iraqi television carried reports from the camp on Saturday, showing pictures of entire families including women, children and old people in their tents.

Forward units of Iraqi troops totalling 64,000 men were Saturday reported just 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the border, as Kuwait mobilized its entire army of 20,000 soldiers amid fears of a repeat of the August 1990 invasion.

'Owners of Right' Demand Return to Kuwait

JN1010124994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0922 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Governorates, 10 Oct (INA)—The Kuwaiti "owners of right" [stateless Arabs, also known as al-bidun] have stressed that they stick to their legitimate demands and rights which were denied by the ruling regime in Kuwait and that they will do everything to ensure the recognition of these rights and demand to return to Kuwait.

In statements to INA correspondents, they urged the international and humanitarian organizations to help them regain their rights and property which were usurped by the rulers imposed on Kuwait. They also voiced their appreciation of the chivalry and selflessness they received from their Iraqi brothers, who shared their bread with them. [passage omitted]

Officials Comment on Embargo, U.S. 'Accusations'

Al-Sahhaf Criticizes U.S. Stand

JN0810221794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2110 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has expressed

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astonishment over all the clamor fabricated against Iraq, which is moving its troops inside its national border.

During his reception of a Malaysian delegation this evening, headed by Othman bin Abdul Ghani, the parliamentary secretary of the Council of Ministers, al-Sahhaf said that this fabricated clamor is being made against Iraq because it is moving its troops on its territories, while no one protests sending U.S. troops thousands of miles away from its borders to threaten the security and stability of other states.

He stressed that the Security Council should not submit to blackmail by the U.S. Administration, which is preventing it from meeting its legal and humanitarian obligations toward Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf asserted that the main obligation of the Security Council toward Iraq is to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution No. 687, since Iraq has met its obligations stated in the other paragraphs of the resolution.

He praised the close ties between Iraq and Malaysia, and said they constitute a strong basis in relations between the two countries.

Abdul Ghani expressed his country's serious desire to promote relations with Iraq and expand cooperation with Iraq's trade and industrial institutions.

Al-Sahhaf on Blockade, Troop Movements

JN0910191194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1806 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has asked Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf two questions.

The first question: What is your comment on reports that Iraq has replaced its political and diplomatic endeavors to lift the blockade with military pressure?

The foreign minister said: This is incorrect and baseless. Iraq still hopes that its political and diplomatic endeavors—particularly those exerted with the Security Council members that show understanding, including permanent members Russia, France, and China, and other nonpermanent members—will produce a definite and decisive result to lift the unjust blockade on our people. We are waiting for the results of the Security Council meeting in which Rolf Ekeus, the chairman of the Special Commission, will present his report on 10 October 1994.

Here, I would like to assert that Iraq will not be reassured by the mere verbalization that it has cooperated with the Special Commission, or that it has fulfilled all the commitments included in the related resolutions. Iraq will only be reassured if the blockade and the injustice imposed on Iraq end. A clear definition is necessary so that Iraq will be reassured that the blockade will end without any procrastination.

In any case, we refuse to see our people dying from starvation or medical shortages. We reject the continuous injustice practiced on our country and people. We reject the continuation of the blockade.

The methods of procrastination will not produce any progress. Meanwhile, issuing a clear resolution ending the blockade will end the suffering of the people of Iraq, will stop the collective death, and will achieve stability in the region.

I would like to note here that Iraq has discussed, through an in-depth dialogue with Russia, France, and China, a specific opinion that calls for lifting the blockade on one hand, and giving a specific stand vis-a-vis Kuwait on the other. Thus, the region will become stable, each will know its rights, and each party will also know its clear present and future.

The second question is: Some people are hinting that the United States and its allies intend to submit a proposal to the Security Council on banning the Iraqi forces' presence in certain areas south of al-Basrah, and that the Americans will use, as a pretext, the recent clamor they created in this regard to apply pressures in this direction. What is your comment?

The foreign minister said: The U.S. tricks have begun. They, however, will not succeed if the Security Council plays its correct role in curbing the illegitimate and tendentious U.S. endeavors and intentions. The Americans and English evoked this issue against us before. However, when they realized that this was a serious game they were playing—which would strip Iraq of its sovereignty—they abandoned this idea.

If the Americans raise this idea again, they will deliberately escalate the situation and push things toward a serious impasse. Hence, we call on other Security Council member states to be cautious about this serious course, should the United States propose it. We also urge them to show prior understanding of why Iraq considers this course a very serious one and why it rejects it, so those who are misled by the U.S. game will not be involved in this course.

We also call for an end to the game of the parallels in the north and south [of Iraq] and for an end to the blockade. If these two demands are met, the Security Council will have fulfilled some of its commitments as stipulated in its own resolutions, which it drafted. Among these commitments is the preservation of Iraq's sovereignty over its own territory. The parallels imposed on Iraq were not included in the Security Council resolutions.

Al-Qaysi Reacts to Albright 'Allegations'

JN0810125094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, has vehemently attacked the United States, accusing it of preventing the UN

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Security Council from implementing its resolutions. In a response he made at the UN General Assembly last night to U.S. Representative Madeline Albright's allegations, Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi said that the U.S. delegate repeated the same allegations that she has made in the past at every periodical Security Council review of the blockade against Iraq. He added that the U.S. delegate has made an obvious attempt to draw the Iraqi delegation into vituperations. The Iraqi delegation, however, did not respond to this attempt, he remarked. He explained that Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz reviewed before the UN General Assembly yesterday a detailed report that the Iraqi delegation can back with evidence. Referring to yesterday's report by THE WASHINGTON POST, he said that the U.S. record of obstructing the Security Council's work toward Iraq is being noted even by U.S. papers.

Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi accused the United States of violating the UN Charter and the UN Security Council resolutions that they themselves had written. Questioning the intentions of Albright's statements, Dr. al-Qaysi said: According to the U.S. delegate, Iraq is now responsible not only for what it is saying, but also for what it has never said. He said: If we rely on allegations, as the U.S. delegate wants, it will mean that any movement of troops inside their national boundaries is a movement with hostile intentions.

Dr. al-Qaysi said: According to what the U.S. delegate wants, it is as if the Iraqis are not allowed to express bitterness and anger. He said: Facts are facts. Among these facts is that the United States is obstructing the implementation of the clauses of Resolution 687 in favor of Iraq.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, has stressed that as a sovereign state, Iraq has the right to move its troops anywhere within its territory and boundaries. This came in a statement made by Ambassador Nizar Hamdun last night following a meeting with British Ambassador David Hannay, the UN Security Council president for this month.

Hammadi Rejects U.S. 'Accusations'

JN0810200094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Interview with Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Ahmad Birru; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIs Translated Text] [Birru] Iraq's Information Minister: How accurate are Kuwait and U.S. accusations regarding movements by the Iraqi Presidential Guard toward the border with Kuwait?

[Hammadi] These accusations are baseless; these accusations and reports are calculated to shuffle the cards. The U.S. Administration is pursuing a plan to starve the Iraqis and turn Iraq into a nation akin to Somalia or Rwanda. Let me, on this occasion, recall the statement issued today by Mr. Koftav, the UN Kuwait-Iraq Observers Mission official, on the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait. He said the area was calm with no Iraqi soldiers there. It is to be noted, and this is important, that the demilitarized zone inside Iraqi territory is 10 km deep. News carried by a Western radio station earlier today also observed that the closest Iraqi military presence in the region was more than 20 km away. This is the truth. As I have said, these accusations are calculated to shuffle the cards. Iraq is entitled to move its troops on its national territory for purposes of maneuvers and exercises. No one has the right to ask Iraq for a balance sheet on this.

[Birru] Your Excellency: Are you not concerned that Saddam Husayn's recent threat to suspend cooperation with the UN inspection committee, which is supervising the disarmament of Iraq, may have a negative impact on the stand of the nations supporting an end to the sancitons, like France, Russia, and China?

[Hammadi] Iraq has the right to prepare for a new stand to put an end to the cycle of subjecting the Iraqi people to starvation. Over the past four years, Iraq has cooperated with the inspection teams and the UN Special Commission chaired by Mr. Rolf Ekeus. Iraq has allowed the commission to destroy all its weapons—the long-range missiles, chemical weapons, the nuclear program, and the equipment to manufacture them, as well as the substances used in their manufacture. Iraq has also consented to the future monitoring program. In all his reports, Ekeus commended Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission. Major nations, including some that joined in the attack on Iraq—like France, Russia, and the PRC—have recognized this cooperation and asked that Iraq be rewarded for this. The problem, though, is not with these nations; it is with the U.S. Administration and the British Government that do not want to see the sanctions lifted no matter what level of cooperation Iraq has shown and irrespective of Iraq's implementation of the Security Council. The U.S. Administration, in particular, backed by Britain embarked on tactics aimed at delaying and hampering a removal of the sanctions. These [words indistinct] are now clear and transparent, particularly, since Ekeus' mission ended. He is supposed to report to the Security Council next Monday on his mission and future monitoring. As you know, there is no provision in Resolution 687 for a test period for the monitoring system. This system is part of delaying tactics [preceding two words in English] followed by the U.S. Administration to keep the sanctions in place.

Russia and France proposed that the test period should not exceed six months because both countries believe that Iraq has carried out its technical and political commitments. French and Russian experts took part in the UN inspection teams. They were, in fact, members of the teams that have visited Iraq over the past four years. They also submitted their reports on their [words indistinct] to the Special Commission.

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Now, the United States does not want to set a date for ending the test period. It wants it to be open in violation of the provisions of Security Council Resolution No. 687, particularly the operating paragraph [words indistinct]. The blockade has now moved to food and medicine. For example, this year we asked the Sanctions Committee to approve the purchase of 250,000 tonnes of wheat and 300,000 tonnes of rice from Thailand. The foodstuffs imported by Iraq are exempted from the blockade, as UN resolutions permit. Last year, the United Nations approved a similar deal with Thailand. This year, the U.S. and the British delegates in the Sanctions Committee categorically refused to approve the food—not guns but food—deal with Thailand. This is interference in the Security Council's resolution allowing Iraq to import food and medicine. There is a new goal of the U.S. Administration, which wants the blockade against Iraq to harm Iraq's people. This obliged us to reduce flour and rice allotments permitted by ration cards, on which 20 million Iraqis are living. Now, the ration card, and not the weapons, is targeted, which is a new and serious development. In other words, they want to change Iraq into another Somalia another Rwanda. Yesterday, I saw on the television a CNN correspondent asking President Clinton at a new conference what Iraq should do to end the blockade. Clinton gave vague answers. He said: Iraq should implement Security Council resolutions. He should have been asked the following question: What are the Security Council's resolutions that Iraq has not implemented? The U.S. delegate and State Department officials say that Iraq should first recognize Kuwait and the borders. We showed our readiness to discuss relations with Kuwait bilaterally or on the Arab level. But the United States is blocking the establishment of normal relations with Iraq's neighboring states and is pressing them to keep Iraq isolated from the international arena. I refer to an article Christopher published in THE NEW YORK TIMES four or five months ago, which urges the Gulf states not to establish normal relations with Iraq.

I would like also to note that the hearing [preceding word in English] which took place at the U.S. Congress on 4 October, that is four days ago. Four days ago, a committee led by Senator Hamilton summoned Mr. Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state, to ask him about the situation in Iraq. This is an excerpt of what took place between Republican Senator Lantos [title and name as heard] and Mr. Pelletreau. Lantos said: Now, we have had some indications that Iraq might be ready to accept the sovereignty of Kuwait and issue a declaration to that affect in order to have the sanctions lifted. What would happen if Iraq publicly accepted Kuwait sovereignty? [preceding statement by in English] This was antos' question. He asks: What would happen if Iraq agrees to recognize Kuwait? Pelletreau said: This would be a welcome development. [preceding sentence in English] This means that we welcome this development. But it would not be sufficient to lift the sanctions. [preceding sentence in English] However, this is not sufficient to lift the sanctions on Iraq.

[Birru] Your Excellency: The embargo, which has been in force for four years, has, as you pointed out, hit the Iraqi economy and wide sections of the population hard. What steps is Iraq contemplating to cope with the next stage in the event of the United States and Britain, and by extension, the Security Council insist on keeping the sanctions in place?

[Hammadi] We will have to adopt increased austerity measures and boost our agricultural output. We have friends around the world who will strive to lift this egregious injustice against the Iraqi people and this serious human rights violation. The United States and Britain and other nations hostile to Iraq allege that human rights are being violated in Iraq, but they themselves are guilty of such violations. Human rights are clear—man's right to life, man's right to security, and man's right to culture. These three rights that are known in the list of human rights, at the United Nations and international law are being glaringly violated by the U.S. Administration. It is turning a rich people with resources of its own into a hungry people who are being starved to death for sheer political ends, because they do not want Iraq to advance or its people to live with dignity.

[Birru] Have any major powers promised to deal with Iraq if the sanctions continue?

[Hammadi] Yes, there are such promises from major powers...

[Birru, interrupting] like....

[Hammadi] Like France and Russia and the PRC. We have also obtained such promises from Nonaligned nations and other countries on a friendly footing with Iraq like Brazil, Spain, and India, and in Africa, Nigeria, and other Asian states such as Malaysia, Indonesia, etc...

[Birru] Thank you, Your Excellency, Mr. Minister.

Hammadi Urges Respect for League Charter

JN0810223294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2120 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA)—Iraq has stressed its full commitment to and respect for all the provisions and articles of the Arab League Charter.

Commenting to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY on some Arab brothers' calls for commitment to and respect for that charter, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said: We remind these brothers that all the provisions of the charter deserve respect for [words indistinct] and relying on circumstances in dealing with the provisions of the Arab League Charter, stressing the need to respect the charter as a whole and at all times without selecting some of its provisions and neglecting or disrespecting the other provisions under certain circumstances.

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Hamid Yusuf Hammadi wondered if the Arab League Charter permits maintaining the comprehensive blockade against Iraq's people, starving the people to death, and turning Iraq into another Rwanda.

He reminded the Arab brothers who voiced their concern about the Arab League Charter that what is facing Iraq's people coincides with moves to lift the economic boycott of the Zionist entity—a boycott which was imposed by an Arab summit resolutions and emphasized by other Arab summits.

Hammadi Reponds to League Call To Withdraw

NC0910163794 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 9 (AFP)—Iraq said Sunday [9 October] it was respecting all the clauses of the Arab League charter unlike other Arab countries, reacting to a call by the League to pull back its troops from the Kuwait-Iraq border.

"We remind our Arab brothers that all the clauses in the charter deserve to be respected," said Information Minister Hamid Yusef Hammadi, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency monitored in Cyprus.

The Arab League urged Iraq Saturday to "respect the rules of the League charter" by pulling back thousands of soldiers reported to be massing near Kuwait.

Hammadi retorted that the charter should not be respected "in a selective way," accusing Gulf Arab countries of contravening it by partially lifting the economic boycott on Israel.

"This boycott was imposed following decisions taken and reconfirmed during Arab summits," the minister said.

The Gulf Cooperation Council—Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates—voted last month to lift the indirect boycott on Israel, which affected foreign firms that had dealings with the Jewish state.

Minister Denies Increase in Buildup

JN1010125894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1220 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just received the following:

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today addressed two specific questions to the culture and information minister.

The first question: The U.S. media and some U.S. officials have talked about an increase in what they called the Iraqi troop deployment in the south. This is part of their well-known media and political clamor that aims at concealing evil intentions. How do you react to such statements?

The culture and information minister answered: I have heard and read the series of fabrications which some Americans have spoken about. I have contacted the responsible parties after these statements were broadcast. The officials have clearly and decisively confirmed to me that there has been no increase in the size or number of units which the Americans initially talked about, not even by a single regiment or battalion.

The second question: How do you react to the Saudi regime's behavior now; especially the Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal's invitation to the U.S. forces and their supporters to land in and use Saudi air bases and ports once again?

The culture and information minister answered by saying: Saudi Arabia took its well-known stand alongside the forces of the 30-state aggression in the military confrontation. The cover for this stand were two declared pretexts: the first is removing what they call aggression against an Arab state, namely, Kuwait; and the second is that the amirs of this state sought refuge with the Saudis. Therefore, in order to come to the rescue of a fugitive, they had to accompany these fugitives in their return to rule Kuwait.

Irrespective of our opinion of the details of this stand, and being aware of the priorities and terms of the Arab norms and conventions pertaining to the correct positions toward such issues—Iraq being Arab and Muslim—and based on the Arab-Islamic heritage, the [Arab tradition] rule says that they should have first tried to reconcile the disputed sides and then if the side which transgresses does not respond to reconciliation efforts and held to be wrong, it will be punished.

However, the Saudi regime intentionally ignored this Arab-Islamic rule. It ignored the attempts of Iraq and other well-known Arab sides, including Jordan, in the meeting which was decided in Saudi Arabia to mend what could be mended.

We say that this did not happen. Yet, Iraq thought that the Saudi hostility toward Iraq would end by the withdrawal of the Iraqi Army. However, the Saudi stand continued to be the same, using Saudi wealth and political and military connections to harm Iraq and continue the blockade, and starve the Iraqi people to death. The Saudi regime ignored all Iraq's serious attempts to open a door for dialogue and reconciliation with Saudi Arabia and within the Arab surroundings which would solve all the remaining problems to give everybody their rights within the correct framework.

This time, we hope that the Saudis will not continue their belligerent attitude toward Iraq because this time their stand will not have a cover even at the minimum level; and that the Saudis will not replace the role of reconciliation, which they should play, by the role of joining the unjust axis, seeking the assistance of the foreigners against Iraq, and continuing the policy of killing and starvation by the unjust blockade. Such

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conduct will have grave results that will not be less serious than direct aggression. This does not serve the security of the region or the pan-Arab security at the minimum level.

Finally, this analysis has proved to be correct. Those who want to draw the correct lessons and conclusions must not ignore these facts.

Spokesman Reacts to 'Fabrications'

JN0710182394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Oct 94 (INA)—The INA today addressed a question to the official spokesman of the Culture and Information Ministry: What is your reaction to reports broadcast by the CNN television network and the statement made by the British Foreign Office spokesman on alleged movements by the Iraqi troops, and to the Kuwaiti ruler's attempts to exercise pressure regarding this in the UN diplomatic quarters?

The official spokesman said: Those who have premeditated designs against Iraq, as well as their little agents, the Kuwaiti rulers, must not imagine that the policy of shuffling cards can achieve their goals in molesting Iraq in the international forums now that their base means and evil objectives to harm Iraq and starve its people to death have been largely exposed. They must also realize that no one has the right to talk about movements by the Iraqi Army units and their deployment on their national soil, or to intentionally introduce sick and illegitimate conclusions in an exposed fabrication, which has very clear objectives.

He added that Iraq does not have to submit an account on the whereabouts of its [military] units, movements, presence, training courses, and exercises. The one who wants peace and cares for it is required to follow the path of peace, exactly as Iraq has done, and not the path of aggression, of starving the militant Iraqi people, and of denying them medicine and life until they die.

He continued: There is nothing more significant and effective on the path of peace and of regional stability than lifting the total and comprehensive blockade on Iraq, and avoiding the intrigues, treachery, and aggression by the petty agents and their masters who are standing behind them.

Speaker Threatens End to 'Cooperation'

JN1010075494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said that Iraq will stop cooperation with the UN Security Council resolutions if the Council goes further in the policy of maintaining the embargo and harming the entire people of Iraq.

In statements to AL-QADISIYAH, the military affairs newspapers, the National Assembly speaker said: Iraq has the right to move its military forces within its national boundaries, whether for training purposes or security considerations since it is an independent, fully sovereign state and member of the United Nations.

He said: No one can object to any mission which we conduct for whatever reason within our boundaries.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih asked: Why should a head of state, such as U.S. President Clinton, display double standards when he views other states? He knows that what the United States did when it moved its troops to Panama to arrest its president, regardless of the pretexts, was unacceptable by the UN Charter or the world. The same also applies now in the case of Haiti.

Salih stressed: The recent position of Rolf Ekeus reveals premeditated intentions, including the prolongation of the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq despite the fact that it implemented all UN Security Council resolutions. He as a man must say that truth which will embarrass many in the UN Security Council and do justice to Iraq and its people.

Salih underlined that preserving peace in the region hinges on telling the truth, which must be told in public. However, he added, Ekeus' recent position and contradictory statements are not in harmony with the mission with which he was charged by the United Nations.

He noted that the Gulf cash is playing a major and suspicious role to influence the votes of several states that wish to normalize relations with Iraq after they have begun to understand the recent changes in the international arena toward Iraq. He stressed that Iraq will embark on extensive moves in the world to explain its position, especially following the escalation of the U.S. claims on the presence of Iraqi troops south of al-Basrah.

Trade Minister: U.S., UK Starving Iraqis

JN1010181394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has said that the United States and Britain are practicing the policy of starvation and genocide against the Iraqi people by depriving them of food and other basic necessities.

Addressing a news conference attended by correspondents from the local press and the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, he said that preventing Iraq from importing food has forced the Iraqi people to live on half of their actual needs for the past four years.

He added that Britain and the United States and the traitorous agents in the region who are collaborating with them used numerous ways and means to prevent Iraq from obtaining food and tightened the channels of obtaining it by rejecting all contracts Iraq signed to purchase flour and rice.

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The minister stressed that Britain and America refused to approve a contract to buy 250,000 tonnes of wheat and 300,000 tonnes of rice although the United Nations last year approved contracts to buy 490,000 tonnes of rice.

He pointed out that the Sanctions Committee has thus far not approved the supply of 120,000 tonnes of wheat and 41,000 tonnes of sugar contracted with French firms although the approval was requested on 11 August 1994. The minister said U.S. and British rejection of the rice and wheat contracts is a clear violation of the UN Security Council resolutions. [words indistinct] America and Britain of attempting to block and reject any resolution [words indistinct] to obtain food and drive away the specter of starvation from its patient people. He indicated that lifting the unfair embargo imposed on the Iraqi people has become a humanitarian duty and demand imposing itself on the influential states, forces, and bodies, especially within the UN Security Council, that are capable of lifting it.

UN Envoy: Nation Has Right To Move Troops

JN0810140994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations, 8 Oct (INA)—Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, has said that Iraq is a sovereign country that has the right to move its troops anywhere within its territory and borders. Ambassador Nizar Hamdun made this statement following a meeting he had last night with David Hannay, Britain's envoy and president of the UN Security Council for this month.

Arab League Envoy Downplays Troop Movements

NC0910123394 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 9 (AFP)—Iraq's ambassador to the Arab League downplayed Sunday [9 October] the importance of Iraqi troop movements toward Kuwait and the gathering of thousands of stateless demonstrators along the Iraq-Kuwait border.

"They are at home, and when you are at home, you can move from one room to another. Why can't we do the same?" Iraqi Arab League Ambassador Nabil Najm said of the troop movements.

"These forces have not attacked anyone and I am surprised by all this fuss," he said.

According to the United States, Nearly 60,000 Iraqi soldiers have massed in Iraq's southern Basra region including one brigade about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the border, according to Washington.

In response Kuwait has deployed its own army out of fear Iraq could invade the emirate as it did in August 1990.

Thousands of civilians were assembling Sunday about one kilometer (half mile) from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait.

"Why did no one make such a fuss during military operations by Kuwait and its allies?" Najm said.

Last week Najm presented the Arab League a report denouncing what it claimed were 155 Allied flights over Iraqi territory in five days.

Al-Sa'dun Warns Against Continuing Embargo

NC0910140494 Paris AFP in English 1352 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 9 (AFP)—Iraq is to carry out "important" decisions if the UN Security Council fails to ease its embargo on Baghdad at its meeting Monday [10 October], Iraq's charge d'affaires in Iran said.

"We can no longer bear the damages inflicted on us by the United Nations and the governments which control it, like the United States," Fayiz Naji al-Sa'dun told Iranian newspapers published Sunday.

"So we will wait until Monday and if the Security Council does not ease or lift sanctions on Iraq, we will act ourselves to save the Iraqi nation."

Al-Sa'dun said his country was "ready" to take responsibility for the "decisions," but did not elaborate.

Rolf Ekeus, who heads the UN Special Commission on Iraq, is due to report to the Security Council on Monday on Baghdad's compliance with long-term weapons monitoring, one of the conditions of the lifting of the embargo.

Informed sources in Baghdad said Iraq could throw out UN arms inspectors if the report failed to set a timeframe for easing sanctions.

Al-Sa'dun refused to say if the "decisions" were linked to reported Iraqi troop movements towards Kuwait, but stressed that his government had a right to do anything inside Iraq's borders.

The US reported Friday that thousands of elite Iraqi troops were moving toward the border with Kuwait, which Baghdad invaded in August 1990 before it was ousted by a US-led coalition seven months later.

The Iraqi embassy in Madrid said in a statement that Iraq was "studying a new position which will put things in their place and get the Iraqi people out of the hole they have been pushed into."

The statement, published in El Pais newspaper on Sunday, said Iraq would "wait until October 10 to see how things turn out."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Sahhaf said Thursday that Iraq would wait for a report by the United Nations before making its position known.

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Further on al-Sa'dun's Remarks

LD0910212994 Tehran IRNA in English 2112 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—Iraqi Charge D'affaires to Iran Fayiz al-Sa'dun said here last night that Baghdad will not allow the United Nations Security Council to decide the fate of his people and will not remain silent towards the violation of rights.

Making the remark at a press conference, al-Sa'dun said the objective of the U.S., Britain and "mercenary regimes of the region such as Kuwait", is to keep the economic sanctions on Iraq.

He added that his suspicions were confirmed by the biased reports made by the U.N. representative, Rolf Ekeus that the real motive behind the U.N. move is to extend the period of the sanctions so as to gradually starve the Iraqi nation.

According to the envoy, the Ba'athist regime of Saddam Husayn is to wait till October 10 to see whether or not the Security Council decides to ease the economic sanctions, otherwise the Iraqi Revolutionary Council will decide unilaterally to avert nationwide hunger, he announced.

Commenting on recent flurry of military activities near the Kuwaiti border, he said Iraq does not have to answer for military maneuvers or training conducted within its borders.

"Those who are in dire need of peace will follow the same path which Iraq has taken in this direction", al-Sa'dun continued.

On western mass media reports of Iraqi military activity near the Kuwaiti border, he reiterated that, "Iraq is an independent country which may do whatever is needed within its territory".

He then pointed to the visible presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf and stressed that the security of the area is the responsibility of countries in the region, a stance which Iran also maintains.

The Security Council has been turned into a Western tool, American in particular, he said adding that, "as a result of economic sanctions more than one million Iraqi people have died. We are ready to do whatever that can rescue us from this situation".

Radio Reports Ekeus Report to UN Delayed

JN1010230094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Western diplomatic sources have said that the UN report on Iraq, which was scheduled to be announced yesterday, Monday [10 October], may not be announced before Tuesday because of an argument about its wording. Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN's Special Commission entrusted with removing Iraqi weapons, has been tasked with writing the report. However, he is still reluctant about the use of some words because of the pressures being applied by the United States.

Tariq 'Aziz Addresses UN General Assembly

JN0710202494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1907 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has demanded that the UN Security Council and General Assembly members, as well as the entire community of nations, examine the unfair and illegitimate manner in which a nation or two of the permanent members hamper the sound, legal implementation of the Council's resolutions on lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq and its people.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said in a speech to the General Assembly in its 49th session in New York this evening that Iraq has the right to demand with all vigor that this unfair and illegitimate stand be changed as soon as possible and to seek absolute clarity from the Council regarding Iraq's just demands.

Following is the text of Tariq 'Aziz speech: Mr. President: I take pleasure in congratulating you on your election as president of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly. I am certain that your experience will have a positive effect in rendering a success of the proceedings of this session.

Mr. President: Iraq is one of the founding members of the United Nations. Over the past five decades, Iraq has contributed actively to all the organization's work and cooperated with it [words indistinct] and extended to it generous assistance when it had the wherewithal to do that. Iraq has also honored the organization's resolutions in accordance with its charter's letter and spirit.

On the general international front, Iraq has actively and responsibly joined in the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization and the Arab League and extended assistance and easy loans worth nearly $10 billion in the seventies to the developing nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin and Central America. Iraq urged that justice be the norm in political and economic ties, stressing the need to respect international law. These positions of Iraq are now common knowledge.

Mr. President: What concerns my country now is the nature of the current stage of relations between Iraq and the Security Council which are based on Resolution 687, which was passed in April 1991 under which Iraq had to meet a series of obligations. That resolution has no parallel in UN resolutions throughout the organization's history, a fact that is now well known within the international legal and political circles.

Despite the [word indistinct] and unfamiliar nature of this resolution, Iraq has informed the Security Council that it is willing to go along with it in accordance with the provisions of the Charter regarding the resolutions

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passed under the seventh chapter. Since then, and despite the hard conditions that have prevailed in our country as a result of the total war that was launched by the most powerful nations on earth and in which 100,000 plus tonnes of explosives were used and aimed at all centers of civilian life throughout Iraq and despite the conditions of the total and harsh sanctions, Iraq has striven to implement that resolution. Less than one year since that resolution was passed, we came to the Council in March 1992 and in November 1992 to lay out the major and serious steps Iraq has taken by way of implementing the provisions incorporated in Resolution 687. On both occasions, we demanded that a positive and fair consideration be given to what had been achieved and that steps be taken toward an easing of the total sanctions that were imposed on Iraq, in particular, regarding the severe suffering of 20 million Iraqis. However, our demand went unheeded.

In the middle of 1993, the relationship between Iraq on the one hand and the UN Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the other saw a qualitative shift in the area of a positive and constructive cooperation to complete the implementation of Section C of Resolution 687, namely, the provisions related to the dismantlement of banned weapons that are connected legally, as the resolution stated, with the lifting of the ban on the export of oil. In the context of this cooperation, on 26 November 1993, we presented the official letter about complying with Resolution 715 passed in 1991 regarding monitoring the weapons sector, after we were assured that Iraq's official confirmation of this compliance marks the quickest route to the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

This assurance has been stated clearly and decisively in the report presented to the Security Council by the executive chairman of the Special Commission, attached to the memorandum of the secretary general distributed in the document 26571, dated 12 October 1993. What was emphasized to us was not implemented. During the past 11 months we lived through a clear process of delaying and obstructing tactics in various manners. The objective of all of this was to delay lifting the embargo indefinitely.

Despite all this, and despite the official consent to continue to cooperate by the competent Iraqi authorities and the several achievements that had been made, through which the work required from the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency was been completed over more than year, we are still facing an intentional state of mystery concerning the Council's fulfillment of its commitments by implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 by allowing Iraq to export Iraqi products and goods, including oil.

Mr. President: The siege imposed on Iraq represents the most elaborate system imposed by the Security Council throughout its history. With the exception of food and medicine, it covers everything and all aspects of life. As a result of freezing the Iraqi assets deposited in foreign banks, Iraq was deprived of any financial revenues to enable it to pay for its needed food and medicine purchases, something that made this exception devoid of any practical use. In addition to this, the Sanctions Committee which the Council entrusted with the responsibility of approving import requests to Iraq resorted to the policy of making the decision by accord [al-tawafuq], but the practical implementation fully conflicts with this. The style adopted in making decisions by the committee was the consensus. It is enough to have one member opposed to [words indistinct] to the import requests.

It is noteworthy, that only three committee members used to show opposition to most of the import requests that dealt with civilian and humanitarian needs. What aggravated the situation in the Sanctions Committee was that it follows procedures that do not depend on precedents, adopting the case by case method in dealing with matters. This caused confusion in the committee's activities and created confusion on what is allowed and what is banned in terms of quantity and quality. It is clear that this style in administering the activities had adverse and harmful results on the flow of humanitarian materials, in spite of their scarcity.

Mr. President: Let's refer to some stark examples. On several occasions, the Sanctions Committee rejected the importation of coffin fabrics, pencils, and various kinds of textiles, including those used to cover hospital beds, various types of threads, papers for school books, leather, car tires and even secondhand tires, nails, and so many other items that are documented in the committee's record.

This situation obliges on the international community to look into the philosophy of the sanctions system in light of UN Charter. Is it a means to realize an objective, or is it an objective in itself? What is the nature of this system? Is it a punitive nature, or is it a host of measures by which the objectives of the Charter are realized in isolation from the policies and moods of member states?

It is known to all that in light of the Charter, the sanctions system is no more than a host of measures aimed to realize certain results, [word indistinct] implementing the objectives and principles of the United Nations. These measures disappear with the removal of their causes. Where are we, then, from the sound implementation of these measures after all this cooperation and progress realized in abidance by Security Council by Iraq?

It is clear that such an application of the sanctions and the embargo against Iraq is a vindictive action aimed at depriving the deep-rooted Iraqi people, who contributed immensely to human civilization, from the most basic elements of human life. Reports by the specialized world bodies indicate a continued deterioration in the living standards of the citizens.

The Iraqi Government provides every citizen with a limited ration of wheat, rice, sugar, tea, cooking oil,

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soap, baby formula, and any other items that may be available. This share, however, is not sufficient to meet the basic nutritional needs of human beings. Lately, we were forced to reduce this ration due to the lack of financial resources and the poor agricultural output resulting from the embargo. Consequently, most citizens, who cannot buy what they lack of these and other items, specially the protein items, because of the high prices, suffer from malnutrition. This situation has affected the physical well-being of the citizen.

Despite the government's efforts to support and improve the agricultural sector, great difficulties continue to be faced due to the embargo; for example, the lack of pesticides, insecticides, agricultural machinery and equipment, water pumps, and fertilizers. We do not have the financial means to balance these shortages. Even if we do have some financial resources, the Sanctions Committee obstructs their importation.

The joint mission of the Food and Agricultural Organization, FAO, and the World Food Program, WFP, which visited Iraq in June of 1993 noted in its alert No. 237 of 1993 the magnitude of the threats resulting from the embargo on the agricultural capabilities of Iraq, which caused the loss of food security and exposed the vast majority of the Iraqi population to severe cases of hunger and malnutrition. The FAO bulletin, edition three of May and June 1994, dealt with the grave problems of food and crops in Iraq due to the shortages of agricultural requirements. The same bulletin noted that the problem of food supplies in Iraq cannot be solved by the provision of food aid and that the permanent solution for the present food crisis lies in reviving the Iraqi economy which cannot be achieved without resuming the activity of international trade. The bulletin also indicated that the ration card system applied by the Iraqi Government, though very successful, only provides one half of the quantity which the Iraqi citizen used to get before the embargo.

In the public health sector, health services deteriorated after they had been amongst the relatively advanced in the world. Cases of death rose due to shortages of medicine and the deterioration of medical equipment to 384,022 cases from August 1990 to March 1994. Cases of death among infants also increased to 126 cases per 1,000 live births, whereas it had been only 32 per 1,000 in the period 1985 to 1990.

Mr. President: There are some who claim that the Iraqi Government is the party responsible for not making available food, medicine, and essential civilian needs to the people because it refused to accept Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712. Such an allegation is a mere falsification. Fair and objective study of the full picture of the arrangements adopted in these two resolutions will lead one to the conclusion that they do represent a political program aimed at violating Iraq's sovereignty, interfering in its domestic affairs, and dividing its people along ethnic and sectarian lines, rather than providing the humanitarian needs of@the Iraqi people. Through five rounds of talks with the Secretariat in Vienna and New York in 1992 and 1993, we sought to reach acceptable formulas of correct arrangements in order to provide the humanitarian civilian needs of our people. However, despite the persistent efforts that were made, such efforts failed to reach an appropriate solution and stave off the objectives of the biased political program because of the pressures exerted by the United States.

One of the major ironies during these talks was that the oil and banking experts who were part of the UN delegation did acknowledge that the arrangements adopted in the two said resolutions were not at all customary in the oil and banking fields. Can anyone involved in the oil industry believe that the signature of a contract for the export of oil would require at least 30 procedural steps. Do you all realize that the banking arrangements which were approved under the two resolutions totally ignore the existence of a developed Iraqi banking sector. Do you all realize that a simple contract for the importation of food or medicine requires no less than 20 bureaucratic steps in order for those goods to reach Iraq, and that even following their arrival, they are subject to monitoring by hundreds of UN monitors from the Iraqi borders until they reach the consumer.

This is the true story of Resolutions 706 and 712. Their real aim was not at all aimed at providing the Iraqi people with their humanitarian requirements.

Mr. President, in the periodic reviews of the Security Council, which are held every 60 days, the last of which was held on 14 September, the U.S. Government leveled various kinds of false accusations at Iraq to justify its stand of delaying the lifting of the embargo indefinitely. We find it useful to refer to samples of such accusations so the picture will be clear to the General Assembly.

The United States says that Iraq's cooperation with the Security Council was intermittent, selective, and opportunistic. This charge is untrue. It is well known that Iraq agreed to abide by the pertinent Security Council's resolutions and endeavored to implement their provisions in the correct legal way. We believe that the majority of Security Council members do not share this charge with the United States.

The United States also charges that Iraq's records in implementing its obligations in the field of banned weapons shows partial and reluctant abidance by UN demands. The facts prove to be to the contrary as is evidenced by the reports of the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency, particularly since July 1993, the latest of which is Document No. 890/1994 S which says:

"The Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency notes with appreciation the constructive cooperation of Iraq and the efforts by the competent Iraqi authorities to facilitate its task." Attached, is the sixth paragraph of the joint statement.

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Among the accusations is that the Iraqi Government cut off electrical power from some areas in the northern Iraqi governorates.

Those who level this charge ignore the fact that the comprehensive blockade imposed on Iraq does not provide the government with enough resources to purchase reserve materials and equipment that would ensure the continuation of the electrical services in the country. Those who level such accusations continually object—within the sanctions committee—to Iraq's requests for imports to preserve the electrical power grid when certain materials are available.

The United States accuses the Iraqi Government of drying up the marshlands in the south of the country in order to pursue certain policies against the inhabitants, resulting, as it says, in the destruction of their cultural heritage and in harming the environment.

Again I say that this accusation is false. It completely contradicts the objectivity which must be upheld by those who want to bear the responsibility pertaining to a permanent Security Council membership. The fact is that the Iraqi Government carried out large-scale irrigation projects in southern Iraq, including the Marshlands, in order to reduce the salinity of the water and the soil from which central and southern Iraq are suffering, and to increase the are of cultivable lands.

The plans of these projects go back to the days of the [Iraqi] Construction Council of the fifties. Of those who contributed to drawing up these plans, revising them, and implementing some of them were consultative firms and companies from the United States, Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Russian, and Canada.

What the Iraqi competent organs did after the imposition of the comprehensive blockade, was to complete these projects on their own. It is ironic that one of the most prominent callers for drying up the southern Iraqi marshlands in the fifties was the U.S. expert who worked in the Iraqi Construction Council at that time, and that one of the rivers in the region is still called the Holland River because it was implemented by a company from the Netherlands.

I wanted to mention these examples of accusations leveled at Iraq so that the facts might become clear concerning the lies and contradictions that are being used as pretexts to prolong the unjust embargo. However, what is more important is to refer to certain stark facts in the conduct of those who level these accusations at us; I allude to the United States of America.

The United States, the state which asks of Iraq to respect the UN Security Council resolutions, imposes two air exclusion zones in northern and southern Iraq without any empowerment from the Security Council or any legitimate grounds from the international law. The U.S. Government, which shows care for the rights of Iraqi Kurds, prevented the Kurdish leaders from completing the agreement which was reached with the Iraqi Government in 1991 in complete freedom through a dialogue that lasted for four months. It frankly said that this agreement strengthens the authority of the national regime in Iraq and opposes its aims of changing the country's national regime.

Is this in harmony with the Security Council resolutions which stipulate respect of sovereignty, and the establishment of international peace and security and stability in the region. Is it acceptable under the Security Council resolutions for that government to obstruct the operation of flights to transport pilgrims from a friendly Muslim state to visit the sacred Islamic religious shrines in Iraq on the pretext that a number of politicians from that state were amongst the pilgrims. The same government also obstructed the shipment of meat by air from Sudan to Iraq on flimsy pretexts.

Mr. President: Lastly in this regard, I wish to stress that Iraq, through its leader, President Saddam Husayn, expressed its sincere desire to open a new chapter with the neighboring Arab states and establish relations based on the Arab League Charter and the UN Charter, on mutual respect of sovereignty, and on common interests. However, everyone knows that the U.S. Government is the party that obstructs these efforts and pressures the states of the region to block any dialogue with Iraq. The article by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in THE NEW YORK TIMES in April this year is the best evidence of that.

Mr. President: Despite the harshness that marked the Security Council resolutions against Iraq, we implemented many of their provisions in full. We are continuing with the implementation of the remaining provisions in the relevant resolutions legally and correctly. Within this context, we are also prepared to allay the concerns of the Security Council members of which we have become aware in our contacts, although some of them have been introduced in contexts which are unrelated from a legal viewpoint.

In the meantime, we wonder: Is it the duty of the state in question under the Charter to implement the provisions of a Security Council resolution adopted under Chapter Seven without expecting any counter obligation from the Council to implement the same provisions. The fair legal view is that the Council resolutions adopted under Chapter Seven of the Charter are binding to the state in question and all other states, particularly the Security Council members, and even more especially the Security Council permanent members. This, undoubtedly, is what the Charter stipulates. Therefore, the Security Council members, and especially its permanent members, should be keener than any other to abide by the resolutions they themselves adopt.

However, the fact now is that one permanent member-state of the Security Council; namely, the United States, is doggedly impeding any step aimed at a sound and legal implementation of the Council's resolution especially

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concerning the lifting of the embargo on Iraq, based on tendentious political motives that have nothing to do with the Council's resolutions or the UN Charter.

Mr. President, by virtue of the Charter, it is within the prerogatives of the General Assembly to discuss the overall world policies of the UN Organization. Based on the Charter, the member-states have left it to the Security Council to shoulder the responsibilities of keeping international peace and security and agreed that the Council may replace them in carrying out their duties as imposed by these responsibilities in accordance with the UN intentions and principles. Therefore, by virtue of the Charter, the members of the Council individually and collectively shoulder the joint responsibility of the entire UN membership and the entire UN body, represented by the General Assembly. The UN General Assembly does not lose its right to work by all the available means to right any wrong that might appear in performing UN tasks.

Based on this premise, we ask the Security Council members, the General Assembly, and the entire international community to consider this unjust and illegitimate situation where one or two permanent member-states are impeding the sound legitimate implementation of the Security Council resolutions, imposing on the ancient Iraqi people harsh suffering that encmpassed all aspects of life.

Iraq has the right to demand with all possible strength, a change of this unjust and illegitimate situation as soon as possible and to demand complete clarity in the UN position on its just demand. Thank you.

'Aziz Returns From New York

JN0910192594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz returned to Baghdad at noon today

'Aziz led the Iraqi delegation that participated in the UN General Assembly's 49th session. He also held intensive meetings with many representatives of the states taking part in these meetings.

Saddam Chairs Joint RCC, Ba'th Command Meeting

JN1010115294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1133 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has presided over a joint meeting for the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The Command listened to a report submitted by Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister, on the outcome of his contacts with UN Security Council members and heads of delegations to the UN General Assembly meetings.

The joint meeting was attended by the foreign minister, the culture and information minister, and several officials.

Saddam Orders Demobilization of Conscripts Born in 1974

JN0910054694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0413 GMT 9 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the demobilization of conscripts born in 1974 in two batches. The first batch will be discharged on 28 April 1995 on the birthday of the leader president, whereas the second batch will be discharged on 1 December 1995 on Martyrs Day.

As well, conscripts recruited with them will also be discharged once they have completed the required years of service.

The announcement on the demobilization of conscripts born in 1975 and 1976 will be made later.

Russian Charge Hands Message to Foreign Minister

JN0910121694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf last night received the Russian charge d'Affaires in Baghdad who conveyed to him an oral message from the Russian leadership. The message indicates that the Russian leadership is following with concern the new developments in the Gulf, especially the movements of the Iraqi forces and the preparations by the Americans, and the possible results of employing the language of threats and the use of force.

The Russian leadership's message expressed the hope that the current situation will be defused, that the movement of Iraqi troops toward Kuwait will stop, and that a clear announcement is made to the effect that there is no intention to enter Kuwaiti territory.

The foreign minister told the Russian charge d'affaires that those with bad intentions in the U.S. and British administrations and their allies most times interpret any Iraqi statement or action in accordance with their own whims and in order to serve their premeditated aims against Iraq. Their extensive record helps us in this regard, especially when certain UN Security Council members ask them to reward Iraq for the sacrifices it made because of its abidance by the Security Council resolutions.

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The minister said: Our Army, be it in al-Basrah or in Mosul, is within its national territory. If every movement and every statement is interpreted at will and blown out of all proportion, then it is more appropriate that we direct questions through the Security Council and through you, to the Kuwaiti rulers and the U.S. and British administrations, who are carrying out continuous military maneuvers near our territory and territorial waters, interfering in our internal affairs, and drawing lines of latitude and longitude on our territory and in our airpace, given that we never transgressed on the territory of anyone and did not violate the airspace and waters of anybody, and despite the fact that our army is within our territories.

The meeting lasted for 40 minutes and was cordial.

British Labor MP: Campaign Aims To Continue Embargo

JN0810211394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A leftist British Labor member of Parliament, (Nam Dallil), has stressed that the suspect campaign against Iraq seeks to maintain the unjust embargo against the Iraqi people.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in London, Dallil said that the United Nations has not given Iraq anything, not even a hope of lifting the embargo in exchange for its full cooperation and implementation of the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions. He ridiculed the U.S. and British claims of Iraqi troops' movement in the direction of Kuwait. He said Iraq is a peaceful country that wants to see the embargo, which has been imposed against it for more than four years now, lifted.

He added that the continued embargo against Iraq will only lead to increasing the Iraqi people's hatred of the United States and Britain and holding them responsible for the present harm and suffering they are facing. In the future, this will reflect negatively on relations between Iraq and these two states. He reaffirmed his appeal to the British Government to open dialogue at the highest possible level between Iraq and Britain to address the effects of the embargo in the best possible means and to exchange views to serve the interests of the British and Iraqi peoples.

UK's Heath Urges Britain, U.S. To Hold Talks

JN1010065794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath has called on the United States and Britain to prepare for opening a constructive dialogue and direct talks with the Iraqi Government [words indistinct].

In an interview with (?BBC-1) Television, Heath said Iraq responded positively to certain UN Security Council resolutions that have been imposed against it and this is a (?sufficient basis) to achieve further progress through a direct and constructive dialogue.

He added that the U.S. Administration held negotiations with North Korean officials and sent a presidential envoy to Pyongyang to hold talks with officials there with the aim of resolving the crisis and prevent the situation from reaching a point of confrontation.

Heath wondered: Why does the (?U.S. President) not hold a dialogue with Iraq as he did with North Korea?

Heath said the Iraqi military moves aim at (?drawing the attention of) the world to the (?acute) shortage of food and medicine from which the Iraqi people are suffering.

Gulf Sources on Saddam's Motives for Troop Movements

MM1110134394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Gulf Political and Military Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Iraqi Deployments Aimed at Kicking Up a Fuss and Trying To Exert Pressure To Have Embargo Lifted"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh—Gulf political and military sources have played down the possibilities of Saddam Husayn's repeating his aggression against Kuwait.

The sources stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that what the Iraqi regime is currently doing, namely deploying its forces on the border with Kuwait, is merely "kicking up a fuss." And that its move is not a military but, rather, a political move aimed at winning the sympathy of the West and the international community with a view to the lifting of the economic embargo, which has become a threat to the regime's survival.

The sources stressed that Saddam Husayn is aware of the seriousness of committing another mistake, since he knows that conditions have changed from those existing prior to his first aggression against Kuwait, even if the objective is to win the sympathies of some states and regimes.

The sources said that, if Saddam embarks on another adventure and ignites a war, he will be offering the West a valuable opportunity to destroy him completely and topple his regime, because the West still feels that there is a mighty Iraqi arsenal which was not destroyed during the war to liberate Kuwait or via the international committee concerned with destroying the weapons of mass destruction.

The sources described the Iraqi president's moves on the southern border with Kuwait as merely "the result of frustration," since he continues to suffer from the threat of the continuation of the embargo. And they are also an attempt to attract attention...maybe the Western states will help him lift the economic embargo imposed on his

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regime. But the sources ruled out the Security Council's backtracking on its insistence on compelling the Baghdad regime to implement all the resolutions on international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Pub! Said To Reluctantly Favor Need To Act

NC0910115794 Paris AFP in English 1143 GMT 9 Oct 94

[By Randa Habib]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 9 (AFP)—Iraqis were torn between fear of another war and anger at the United States on Sunday [9 October] as the two enemies became locked in another showdown.

The Iraqi public was able to read for the first time on Sunday reports of thousands of elite Iraqi troops deploying near the border with Kuwait, and US threats of military retaliation as Washington sent 4,000 troops and warships to the Gulf.

"The prevailing feeling is that we have to act" to end an international embargo imposed on Baghdad after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, one Baghdad resident told AFP.

"It is a question of dignity. Iraq has cooperated with the United Nations but after four years nothing has changed," he said.

"The embargo is still as crushing and poverty even bleaker."

Iraq warned it would cease cooperation with the United Nations if it was dissatisfied with a report scheduled for Monday on its compliance with Gulf war ceasefire resolutions, which ordered the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.

Baghdad says it has met its commitments and sanctions should be lifted.

Iraq's economy has been crippled by the embargo and rations of some basic food stuffs were recently slashed by up to half.

Many Iraqis blame the United States for the UN's refusal so far to lift or ease the embargo. One resident slammed "American injustice which will never end so long as it subdues Baghdad."

Yet Iraqis are also frightened by the spectre of war raised by a stand from President Saddam Husayn, as newspapers announced that young Iraqi "volunteers" were being called up to defend their country.

Kuwait has deployed its entire army of 20,000 soldiers and dozens of tanks in the north of the country, while the US is sending 4,000 troops and warships including an aircraft carrier which was expected to arrive in the Gulf on Sunday.

One 30-year-old man said: "I could be called up ... who knows what the future holds."

Others said a new war would mean "more poverty, hunger and insecurity" at a time when they were already "at the end of their tether."

Some Iraqis have stocked up on supplies to prepare for war, but "not much, because you have to have enough money to buy a sufficient amount of provisions," they said.

On Sunday people were buying up supplies of butane gas for cooking in Baghdad. Petrol stations on the road from Baghdad to the border post of Tirbil were refusing to sell petrol to long queues of cars.

Baghdad appeared calm Sunday. Banks, petrol stations, schools and offices opened as normal as residents went about their everyday lives.

But foreign reports carried in Iraqi newspapers described the escalating tension on the Kuwait-Iraq border, as Arab countries condemned Iraqi troop movements and allied forces threatened military action.

Opposition Leaders Discuss Possible Regime Actions

NC1010171594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], held an expanded meeting at the prime minister's office at 1530 yesterday. The meeting was attended by Major General Hasan al-Naqib, member of the Presidium of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC]; Dr. Ahmad al-Shalabi, head of the Executive Council of UINC; Kusret Rasul 'Ali, head of the Kurdistan regional government; Dr. Rawj Shawij, Kurdistan's deputy prime minister; 'Umar [name indistinct], member of PUK Political Bureau; Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman and [name indistinct], members of the Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party. Also present at the meeting were Abu-Amal, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq; and several party officials and military commanders of Kurdish parties and groups.

During the meeting, which lasted for approximately 60 minutes, the conferees discussed and adopted the necessary measures to deal with all contingencies, including hostile actions by the Iraqi regime against the liberated areas of Kurdistan.

Opposition Leaders Say Saddam Foiled Coup Attempt

BR1110150394 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 8 Oct 94 p 7

[Report on interview with Iraqi National Congress leaders Latif Rashid and Sa'd Jabr by Guido Santevecchi

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in London; date not given: "Saddam Husayn Has Just Foiled a Coup and Wants To Keep His Generals Busy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first alarm was sounded by the London headquarters of the Iraqi National Congress, which hosts the Iraqi opposition groups, the Shiites, and the Kurds. These sworn enemies of Saddam Husayn beat the Pentagon observers to it by sending out a fax on Thursday evening [6 October] to the main European newspapers: "Units from two divisions of the Republican Guard, the backbone of the Iraqi Armed Forces, are moving rapidly southward, and are approaching the border with Kuwait."

"Why such a provocative move right now when people are discussing the end of the embargo?"

"Saddam is under tremendous pressure. The economy has been devastated by four years of sanctions. People are tired, the Army is disappointed and humiliated," Iraqi National Congress Deputy Chairman Latif Rashid replied from London, explaining that "this behavior is typical of Saddam's mentality. He is flexing his muscles to show his adversaries, in particular those inside the country, that he can still confront the world."

According to Sa'd Jabr, one of the opposition leaders in exile, in the last few days a group of officials tried to overthrow Saddam. The plot is said to have also included certain elements of the Guard. These rumors have not yet been confirmed, but in the past Jabr, the son of a former Iraqi prime minister, has proven to have reliable sources of information.

[Santevecchi] If Saddam fears a military coup, why is he right now challenging U.S. power?

[Jabr] A tactical response. In particular by dispatching the elite divisions southward, he is putting them at a distance from Baghdad, and in this way he keeps his generals busy.

[Santevecchi] In other words solely a calculated risk for internal reasons?

[Jabr] Saddam is capable of anything. His one objective is to remain in power. He could also advance too far. Let us not forget that during the 1990 crisis he had six months' time to retreat from Kuwait. But he underestimated the resolve of the international community and finally it was war.

UN Embargo Decision, Kuwait, New Crisis Viewed

Editorial: 'Is Crisis Avoidable?'

JN1010194794 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Oct 94 pp 1, 2

["Standpoint" column by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Questions About Breaking Economic Sanctions. Who Is Responsible? Is Crisis Avoidable?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the Iraqis came to be convinced that the United States is pursuing genocidal policies against them by retaining the sanctions and refusing to commit itself to the legal nature of the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to Iraq, the most important question in their minds must be this: Are we headed into a hot crisis in the region? The answer to this question depends entirely on what the Security Council will decide in the session it is due to convene after the Special Commission's Chairman Rolf Ekeus presents his report 10 Ocotber.

If the council remains adamant about not living up to its obligations to Iraq, not the least of which is terminating the Iraqi people's suffering, through lifting the ban on Iraqi oil sales as provided for in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, it will mean carrying on with the systematic and premeditated annihilation of thousands of Iraqis and dashing any hopes that the Security Council may fulfill the role set for it by the UN Charter and, thus, force the Iraqi people to look for "alternative formulas" of a different nature and various forms to cope with the genocidal crime being perpetrated by the United States in the name of the United Nations.

The international community has never seen anything like what Iraq is being subjected to. None of the previous UN-imposed sanctions included medicine or food. Indeed, some of the sanction regimes were confined to a few items that did not impede the development and progress of life; a case in point is South Africa. The Iraq sanctions are of the kind calculated to bring about the largest number of slow and painful deaths.

Scarce food and medicine spell a gradual and progressive deterioration in public health and rising mortality rate among all age groups and a return of serious diseases that disappeared in the seventies. Examples: The spread of poverty, crime, moral decay, individual and social anxiety, decline in the level of science and culture, disintegration of society and leaving law and order vulnerable to the risk of being disturbed. Many had assumed that the United States had not planned for this to happen. However, its recent stands show that the United States is going out of its way to unravel Iraqi society from within and lay the groundwork for such tragedies as Iraq has not seen since Hulegu invaded Baghdad. It is possible that the United States is using what took place in Yugoslavia in the way of pre-planned rape, random killings of men, women, and children, the burning of cities, and the dismemberment of the state as a model to impose on Iraq with war. Having failed to achieve that goal in the 30-state aggression, the United States resorted to the embargo.

Iraq has cooperated with the United Nations and complied with the Security Council resolutions, unfair as these are. Iraq has lost much of what it built with sweat, money, and energy, because it wanted to forestall the United States and rob it of the opportunity to destroy Iraqi society using the excuse of an Iraqi noncompliance.

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As provided for by Resolution 687, the economic sanctions should have been removed in exchange for the cooperation Iraq has shown. However, applying direct pressure, the United States has prevented the Council from making any decision lifting the sanctions. Keeping the sanctions in place carries serious risks for the Iraqi people, and it will not be possible to remain silent about this.

Suffice it to note here that, in the past four years, the sanctions have left approximately 1 million Iraqis dead, including 350,000 children. Compared to the toll in major and protracted world wars, this figure amounts to terrible losses. This can only mean that the United States is waging real and dangerous and daily war claiming thousands of lives, despite all the concessions the Iraqis have made.

Hence, the following fact has surfaced: The current situation in Iraq is an inhuman situation causing thousands of deaths everyday, with no hope in the offing for an end to it through the United Nations if the U.S. position remains the same. Therefore, we must give up the illusions of an external solution and embark on a historic process to save Iraq and its people, relying on the Iraqis' will, resources, and sacrifices. This is because if the situation remains as it is now, it will lead to tragic, unacceptable results.

This process of salvation may start by reconsidering cooperation with the United Nations, canceling all that has been agreed on or implemented, looking for unconventional formulas to break the blockade, and even taking carefully studied stands and measures to change the status quo which has been imposed for the past four years.

This may lead to another question: But the United States may get angry and it may take further measures? This is a logical question, but it is yet more logical to ask: Is there anything the United States has not done to harm Iraq? The answer, absolutely, is: No. Food and medicine are banned. Beside, there are continuous efforts to ruin Iraqi agriculture and destroy crops. Is there any other means that has not been used? The United States has definitely done all it can against us. If we reexamine our position, we will see it will not be able to do more than it has already done.

Once again, another question may arise: What if it has decided to launch another war against us? This is ruled out for two reasons. First, the leadership of Iraq is concerned about the safety of the Iraqi people and is determined not to aggravate their suffering. Therefore, it will strive to avoid having the crisis turn into a military conflict.

Second, the United States cannot launch a war similar to the criminal 30-state aggression, even though the elements of hatred governing decisionmakers still want to launch an overall military war against us. The United States cannot launch such a war for several reasons. Leading those reasons is its inability to mobilize a huge buildup of no less than 250,000 troops, and the fact that it is impossible for the United States and its allies to finance an all-out war. Finally, there are no justifications to convince big powers and other countries to launch a war against Iraq just because it has canceled what has been agreed upon with the United Nations, especially since Iraq's logic is now strong and understandable, contrary to the events of 1990.

Therefore, in the worst case and possibility, the military form of the crisis may amount to the launching of missiles against Iraq from afar to inflict destruction and intimidate the Iraqis, without changing any facts on the ground, whether those existing now or the ones that may be created by the Iraqi people in their quest for legitimate means to end the criminal, murderous blockade.

Here we must pause a little and ask: If we have to choose one of two very specific and very tough options: Either to live in misery and humiliation, with our national dignity and Iraqi individuals' honor harmed and Iraq destroyed through the continued blockade, or to declare holy jihad and rearrange everything relying on the will and sacrifices of the Iraqi people, then the Iraqi people will chose the second option, no matter how grave the sacrifices may be.

In a lecture I delivered in a Ba'th Party section in 1992 on our sacrifices in the Mother of Battles and how they safeguarded Iraq and its unity and kept the doors of the future open for the next generations, I noticed that peasants were at the front of the crowd. I asked them the following question: If someone insulted your honor, what would you do? They answered: We would make a bloodbath. I asked again: If someone raped a girl from your tribe, what would you do? The answer, again: A bloodbath. I then asked: If you offer dozens of yours sons' lives to respond to an insult or an attack on one girl, what would you do if the insult were aimed against the great homeland in which entire the tribe lives? What would you do if, God forbid, thousands of glorious Iraqi women were raped? How would you react when you see your beloved children being slaughtered in front of you? Do you know what the response of those Iraqi citizens was? With tearful eyes, they cried: "God is great! God is great! We would rather die than be humiliated."

Today, in 1994, the United States continues to insist or humiliate every Iraqi by violating his national and personal honor and by preparing to violate the honor of thousands of Iraqi women by attempting to turn Iraq into a forest where wars of starvation and theft will be ignited if the embargo continues to be in place. So, shall we remain silent? Shall we allow this beautiful and great Iraq to be burned and destroyed? Shall we allow our beautiful bridges to collapse, our lovely gardens to be spoiled, and our streets to be littered with bodies? Shall we wait for the day when one will not be able to protect his wife, sister, daughter, or child from rape, murder, or dismemberment?

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No and a thousand times no. Sacred Iraq is the homeland of prophets, starting from Abraham, peace be upon him. It is the homeland of civilizations and values. We will not allow bastards, thieves, and exporters of AIDS to enter Iraq, touch a blossoming Iraqi flower, or cut the braid of a Babylonian girl.

If the United States chooses to launch a new military aggression, then we will be obliged to defend ourselves and our national and family honor. The losses incurred by this glorious defense will not exceed one tenth or one fifth of our actual current losses. Inevitably, any Iraqi prefers to suffer honorable losses for a specific period of time rather than bleed to death. Holy jihad will open the doors of the future and will compel the United States to reconsider [its position] and encourage other parties to move closer to Iraq.

Therefore, we are absolutely not seeking war or military confrontation. We are rather seeking to put an end to the suffering of our people by ending the blockade in any manner. We seek to tell the United States and its agents that the Iraqi patience has run out and that the perpetuation of the crime of annihilating the Iraqis will trigger crises, whose nature and consequences are known only to God.

Therefore, we must ask: Can the crisis be averted? The answer is yes. Creating a crisis or turning it into a military conflict can be easily averted through the United States' commitment to the legal nature of the Security Council's resolutions and its implementation of these resolutions within that framework. Is this an impossible or unrealistic demand?

We frankly say that the United States is escalating the situation. It insists on trying to humiliate the Iraqi people and destroy Iraq. We were left only one option, that is, to defend Iraq's honor and unity, and the security and future of its people through whatever means and at any price.

Cooperation With UN Reviewed

JN0810131094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0804 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi papers issued in Baghdad today dealt with the Iraqi leadership's new stand toward cooperation with the UN Security Council, the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq, and the need to lift it.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ stresses that the political approach Iraq has decided to adopt is aimed at averting injustice and lifting the unjust blockade, especially since Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions.

In its editorial, written by Editor-in-Chief Nasrallah al-Dawudi, the paper adds: Iraq has implemented Resolution 687 and its paragraphs related to the destruction of weapons, equipment, and the relevant buildings with the objective of safeguarding its sovereignty and achieving its scientific and technological development.

The paper notes that the UN Security Council should implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. It says that the UN Security Council has arbitrarily disregarded this paragraph as a result of the U.S. pressure pushing toward the implementation of Resolution 715 on future monitoring.

The paper says: With patience and a sense of good spirit, Iraq has cooperated with the inspection teams and the UN Special Commission's missions. UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus has several times admitted this cooperation and the spirit with which Iraq has dealt with the UN Special Commission to facilitate its mission.

The paper says that Ekeus set last September as a date for beginning the monitoring system. However, he later began to make contradictory statements and to give different dates for operating the monitoring system, nevertheless, Iraq has not lost its patience despite its people's suffering.

The paper says that this state of affairs confirms the fact that the UN Security Council is only a cover and a tool to implement the ambitions of the U.S. devil and its henchmen. The paper adds: The statements Rolf Ekeus made upon arrival in Iraq to the effect that the objective of his visit was to expedite Iraq's implementation of the UN resolutions take us back to square one and to the fact that he has swallowed his previous statements. Thus, he has shown that he is implementing the U.S. policy of maintaining the blockade against Iraq despite its positive stands toward the resolutions issued against it—even though they are unjust and arbitrary.

The paper asks Ekeus: After all that has been done by Iraq, is it not the UN Security Council's duty to eliminate injustice against the people of Iraq after it has fulfilled all its obligations toward all the UN Security Council resolutions? Th actions taken by the UN Special Commission's cha man exposes the clear political objectives—for the issue is not about technical aspects, which have been exhausted by all kinds of tricks, methods, and maneuvering to prolong the unjust blockade in order to make the illusions of the enemies come true. Ignominy to them, because illusions are one thing and the real state of affairs of our people is another, which shows our people's history of confronting the devil and the forces of injustice and colonialism.

Concluding, the paper says: With procrastination, evil prevarication, and the casting of doubts on our commitment, the enemies dig their own graves with their hands, because we are not a state whose people have surrendered as a result of injustice and the darkness of slavery. We are the owners of striking swords, a combat history, and heroism that knows no limits. So, if a final date to lift the blockade is not set, future monitoring will not begin. Yes to a crossroads with the United Nations and

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the UN Security Council, which have forgotten their neutrality and thrown themselves in the arms of the U.S. devil. We are capable of crossing to the other bank of the river in the name of God, the homeland, and leader Saddam Husayn. Our patience has run out, and here is the anger of the forbearer shaking itself to compensate for the pains of this patience. Victory will be our lot, God willing.

In another article, AL-'IRAQ says the procrastination and impossible demands of the Special Commission and certain UN Security Council member states have revealed the shaky standards and deliberate deviations intended to inflict harm and impose aggressive, arbitrary measures against Iraq and its people.

The paper explains that a review of some details of what has happened during the visits of the Special Commission's inspection teams and the practices of their members in Iraq make it clear to us that this committee falsifies, covers up, and twists facts to provide a cover for the United States so that it can continue its rancorous, aggressive stands that aim to hamper any UN Security Council resolution to remove the injustice done to the Iraqi people and lift the unjust blockade imposed on them without any legal or moral justification.

The paper explains that the facts revealed by the foreign minister and the director of the Military Industrialization Organization in their 6 October news conference enable every observer to realize that what is happening is part of a serious plot to humiliate Iraq and starve its people in an attempt to push them into a situation similar to that which took place in Somalia and Rwanda. The paper adds that the United States and its allies and followers stand behind many of those practices, which not only incite amazement and wrath, but also show the extent of the debasement the U.S. Administration has reached as it deliberately insists on continuing the crime of besieging the Iraqis and denying them their needs in food, medicine, and other requirements.

The paper stresses that Iraq has earnestly and sincerely cooperated with the UN Security Council, especially Resolution 687. It has also extended all forms of assistance to the inspection teams, despite all their provocations and illegitimate demands, such as their demands to visit juice and beverage factories and to go down into sewers. Yet, the Security Council has not taken any measures to implement its reciprocal commitments toward Iraq. On the contrary, under the U.S. pressure, what happened was the opposite.

The paper adds that the recent past has witnessed an aggressive escalation by the United States and Britain. They have embarked on an exposed and deliberate campaign to tighten the food and medicine siege by refusing to give permission for the importation of foodstuffs contracted by Iraq, using various pretexts without any moral justification. Their only aim is to persist in their evil course and to move to a more dangerous stage of genocide and starvation.

Concluding its editorial, AL-'IRAQ says that, proceeding from those facts and the relationship with the Special Commission and Security Council, which the United States is using as a means to execute its hostile designs, our leadership has decided to prepare a new stand that will straighten matters out and free the Iraqi people from the ordeal that has been imposed on them. This decision expresses the conscience of every sincere and honorable person rejecting injustice and aggression in all its forms and affirms that the great Iraqi people under the leadership of their unique leader, Saddam Husayn, cannot but be in harmony with their history, civilization, and their human and pan-Arab role and principles. At the crucial moment, the Iraqi people will prove that they are capable of making decisive decisions and wrench free their full rights, led by their right to a free, descent life and an honorable future.

In this regard, BABIL says that the delaying tactics being employed by the United Nations against Iraq has given Iraq two options: either to kneel down, with all that entails in terms of giving up its pan-Arab role and sovereignty [sentence incomplete as received].

In an article written by political writer 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin, the paper adds that the enemies want to force Iraq to give up action in the field of reconstruction, to hand its resources to the thieves of [word indistinct], and accept mass annihilation. Otherwise, what does the continued blockade and this indifference toward the suffering of our people mean, as if our people deserve to be exterminated?

The paper says: Even if we strip our entry into Kuwait of its historical dimension and of its being made in self-defense, and if, for the sake of argument, we consider what had happened to be a conventional war, we will still have to ask: How many wars have been waged in recent history and how many wars were started by the United States, thousands of kilometers away from its coasts? But is anybody punished or besieged?

Iraq has implemented wrongful and unfair resolutions that harm its interests—resolutions which it could have rejected and can still reject in part and in parcel. It has done all this out of its sense of responsibility toward peace. Thus, it has become clear that the issue is much more than one of cameras. What they want is the head of Iraq—the homeland, people, history, and wealth. [passage omitted]

'Udayy Article Assails Kuwaiti Rulers

JN0910172794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has said that the people in Kuwait will learn the truth gradually, and will draw the right conclusions, regardless of their viewpoint on the details.

In an article by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, published today, the paper adds that among the most important

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conclusions is the fact that the rulers of Kuwait have always represented the foreigners' policy in inter-Arab relations, that they are acting like humiliated henchmen who seek the help of foreigners against the Arabs, and that they are leading those who have adopted the policy of harming Iraq.

'Udayy continued: In the past and present, the rulers of Kuwait have pushed relations with Iraq and the Arabs toward the impasse and the known harmful crises. The most dangerous among the al-Sabah family members is Sabah al-Ahmad, who is known for his subservience and agentry.

He explained: Before 2 August 1990, Sabah al-Ahmad aggravated things as part of a policy to starve and harm the Iraqi people. After 2 August, Sabah al-Ahmad, along with his clique, also aggravated things and coordinated his plans with the weak and ignorant ones and with his devilish clique.

BABIL adds: Those concerned did not learn from the lessons. Instead, they continued to engage themselves in more serious things, stimulated by their hatred, until they finally enjoyed the policy of starving Iraq and depriving it of both medicine and the simplest requirements of life throughout the five years since 2 August.

'Udayy continued: This evil and agent clique ignored all Iraqi calls and initiatives to give the evil ones opportunities to rectify and clear themselves from their evil motives and from doing harm to others. The evil ones, however, imagined they could totally annihilate the Iraqi people and deprive them of their national will, of life, and of dignity.

He added: They have ignored the fact that throughout its history, which dates back thousands of years, Iraq has seen many foreigners, their satellites, and small agents, but they have all gone in defeat and humiliation, and the Iraqi people have continued to exist lofty and proud of their kinsfolk and of those who love them.

He pointed to the statement of Sa'd al-'Abdallah, [Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister] and how he was crying when he spoke about the diwaniyat [places where men meet to discuss social, political, and other affairs] which criticized the al-Sabah family which involved the people in an impasse regarding its relations with the Arabs and Iraq. He said: We would have respected Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah's talk about martyrdom and martyrs, and even his call for what he called a stand toward the aggression, had his intention been honest and patriotic.

In his article, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn said: The brothers in Kuwait know that in order to be firm and respectable, their concepts must be based on solid grounds, especially when they are made by an official who has been in power for dozens of years.

He said: Sa'd al-'Abdallah has called for martyrdom against Iraq in order to continue his despicable role in harming the Iraqi people and starving them to death. At the same time, he and his henchmen have rejected all the initiatives Iraq presented to him and to others, at a time when the rulers have opened the doors for the Zionists who are occupying Jerusalem, the first of the two kiblahs and the third holiest mosque.

He wondered: How can any listener view Sa'd al-'Abdallah's call as a stand of a one who seeks martyrdom while he and his henchmen are enjoying the killing of the Iraqi people? They are just like the one who steals the food of a lion to starve it to death although he shares with this lion an open area that goes back thousands of years in history and which will extend for thousands more.

He said: Where are legitimacy and fairness in the stands of Sa'd al-'Abdallah and the others who, intentionally and continuously, harm the Muslims and the Arabs through their treachery. They try to harm the lofty and steadfast Iraqi people when they open their doors for the Zionists and foreigners.

He added: Sa'd al-'Abdallah and the others should remember that the foreigners are only concerned about their own interests, that the foreigners do not make sacrifices for the sake of rulers and their thrones, that the foreigners are not the sons of this region, and that the sons of the region are the only ones who can resolve the problems they are facing. If a foreigner enters [word indistinct] quarters, he will leave them after enjoying the money and spoils of their treacherous people.

Crisis Said Aimed To Coincide With Ekeus Report

JN0910123294 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baghdad, Oct. 9 (INA)—BABIL newspaper of Baghdad said Iraq is compelled to resort to all possible means leading to just peace and that those believing that they deal with Iraqi from a position of strength should reconsider their calculations.

A paper article here today said Iraq's leadership employed all efforts to surmount consequences of the economic blockade by depending on the Iraqis's sacrifices and the cooperation with the Security Council to reach positive results and that is why Iraq today demands others to implement their obligations.

The paper questioned what the Americans, British, Kuwaiti and Saudi rulers want from the Iraqi people which is capable of repulsing any harm. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad said Iraq is free in moving its military units within its national borders and would not accept the continuation of the plot in which certain figures in the UN Special Committee contribute to implement for the sake of starving the Iraqi people.

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The paper affirmed that Iraq would maintain its attitude from a position of dignity and right and cohesion between the people and their leader without surrender or squandering rights.

AL-THAWRAH added that the American defense secretary is aware of Iraq's capabilities and that stability of the region would pass only through the gate of Iraq, an Iraq away from threat with aggression and threats of starvation and disease.

The paper said that closing the gates of fairness against Iraq would certainly move Iraq to seek the gates of the universe stores and this affair is legitimate and provided for in divine laws.

It added that the Security Council did not notice the positive attitude, commitment and sincere cooperation of Iraq with the Special Committee. The council had only noticed what the American Administration wants, the affair confirming neglecting realities in favour of lies and prior political purposes.

The paper pointed out that it seems very clear coinciding the American move with the date "tomorrow" of presenting the report of Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Committee which means debating this report in atmospheres hostile to Iraq.

This American move is after wiping out all realities of Iraq's commitment and cooperation with the U.N. committee and then carrying out all desires of the American administration. For this purpose the American administration moves its warships and instruments in Kuwait, Riyadh and Cairo, the paper said.

UN Report 'Deliberate' Bid To Harm Iraqis

JN0910143994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper today asserts that the report Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus will submit to the Security Council tomorrow will be something like deliberate insistence on harming the Iraqi people.

The newspaper bases its assertions on the results of the recent talks Ekeus held with Iraqi officials in Baghdad, which showed beyond any doubt that his report will deviate from the objective facts, will be vague, and will be close to dishonesty in its assessment of the facts of Iraq's fulfillment of all its obligations toward the Security Council resolutions.

The newspaper says the result of Ekeus report will prolong the unjust siege to the point of starving the Iraqi people.

The newspaper, which is the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, emphasizes that Iraq will not let this situation come about, and says Iraq has a legitimate, legal, and humanitarian right to confront the siege and all vengeful attempts that target the country, based on the principles of the UN Charter, international law, and human rights law.

It says the international community is aware of the nature of the Iraqi position and the size of the scientific sacrifices Iraq has made. It adds that the U.S. position now seems to be totally isolated from the international will and the tendencies of the majority of permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council, who want to see a specific end to the unjust siege.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying this situation will provide Iraq with more support for the measures it will take to shove away harm and deprivation from its people.

Forces' Relocation Sign of 'Good Intentions'

JN1110111394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0908 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi political writer has emphasized that the right to live is the first and most important human right, and when this right is endangered everything becomes legitimate, acceptable, and necessary to safeguard this right.

In an article published today, Salah al-Mukhtar, chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, said: The United States has mobilized all its basic and reserve capabilities and declared a state of emergency in the media, intelligence, and military fields, and increased the level of obscenity in talks by U.S. officials when Iraq announced its readiness to defend its existence in the face of the mass killing, which the U.S. Administration insists should continue.

He added: U.S. President Clinton, like his predecessor Bush, is implementing a policy of annihilating the Iraqi people within the framework of a deliberate and planned international U.S. policy, which says that the increasing and dangerous world problems are caused by the rising population of Third World countries.

He said: Clinton's administration is practicing a racist policy that discriminates between human beings on the basis of color and race, and considers the Arabs and Third World peoples as human beings of a lower class who do not deserve sympathy or to be rescued from death.

He said: The United State encouraged, and is still encouraging, committing mass killing in various parts of the world through paralyzing the international will and preventing it from stopping bloodbaths. It keeps the United Nations as a mere tool for controlling crises and not resolving them.

He added: The U.S. policy toward Iraq is based on mercilessly annihilating millions of Iraqis through hunger and disease. The number of people who die daily as a result of the siege is sufficient evidence of this.

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In his article, Salah al-Mukhtar emphasized that the biggest loss that will be inflicted on the United States in the Middle East throughout its history will be the loss of the Iraqi people by turning them into a people who harbor hatred, who gradually change—with the continuation of siege into people who insist on taking revenge from the worst torturers and criminals in history.

He says: The shallow mentality of U.S. politicians makes them victims of the concept that no one will punish them for their crimes of annihilating the human race, starting with the Red Indians, and ending with the annihilation of 1 million Iraqis.

Salah al-Mukhtar advised the U.S. politicians, led by President Clinton, to study history and learn lessons from it, primarily that no one can prevent a people from practicing their right to defend their lives and existence by any means. The death of 1 million Iraqis is a legitimate excuse for us to knock on the world doors in order to be heard and so that resolving problems will begin in the known ways, otherwise, chaos and wars will prevail in the world.

Salah al-Mukhtar addressed U.S. President Clinton, saying: Your current hysterical campaign against Iraq aims at intimidating us and forcing us to remain silent and accept the collective death of Iraqis amid a comprehensive calmness that slaps the victims in the face so that you are not disturbed by the picture of thousands of these victims' faces.

The Iraqi political analyst noted the study prepared by the Strategic Studies Institute in Washington. The study acknowledges that the steadfastness of the Iraqis and the survival of their leadership and national symbol, President Saddam Husayn, are the result of introducing the ration cards which prevented the fragmentation of Iraq and the annihilation of millions of Iraqis.

He also noted that the study calls on the U.S. Government to work toward foiling the ration cards through depriving Iraq of its exported and local food in order to destroy Iraq's steadfastness and national unity and turn the Iraqis into a hungry people.

He said: The U.S. game has now become clear. It aims at finding additional excuses to prolong the blockade now that the overwhelming majority of countries have become convinced that Iraq has implemented its commitments and that there are no more excuses for the continuation of the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi analyst said that the current U.S. escalation aims at killing the Iraqi people quietly and slowly and concealing Clinton's weak points on the domestic level.

Concluding his article, Salah al-Mukhtar noted the significance of the Iraqi step to withdraw the Iraqi forces stationed in the south to the north of their present positions. He said: Relocating the Iraqi forces is a sign of good intentions and a step aimed at pulling the carpet from beneath those who are making accusations against Iraq. He added: This step should only be explained as a practical response to the lies which say that Iraq is threatening Kuwait.

Full Right To Stop Injustice Stressed

JN1110121894 Baghdad INA in English 0915 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—[passage omitted]

The English-language daily BAGHDAD OBSERVER said today that over four years now the people of this country have been subjected to the most atrocious crime of imposing a blanket embargo that has even covered basic essentials like food and medicine. Thousands of people have perished since the imposition of the embargo.

In its editorial titled "The Right To Survive," the paper went on to say that the hardship faced by the people here are the result of a one-polar world system led by the United States that has become a monster whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocent men, women, children and the elderly who die every year because they cannot get proper nutrition or find medicines.

The American administration is using the UN Security Council, as a tool to starve the people of Iraq. It has blockade through its pressure on the sanctions committee shipments of purely civilian items badly needed by the sanctions-hit population [sentence as received].

The U.S. has exerted pressure on the Special Commission and its chief Rolf Ekeus who has abused his authority as a UN official in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons.

He dragged his feet and delayed the submission of his report to the Security Souncil. Ekeus used to say positive things in Baghdad but once he was back in New York he would tell the UN council lies about Iraq's non-cooperation with the Special Commission.

Ekeus has on many occasions praised the progress made by Iraq towards the implementation of the UN resolution related to the dismantling of the country's mass destruction weapons.

Iraq has been highly cooperative with UN teams over four years now, and in return Ekeus has to be just to the destitute population of Iraq.

The UN should retain its character as an independent world body that was formed as a guardian of peace and stability.

Ekeus should not give the U.S. Administration of Bill Clinton the mandate to go on with its declared aim of maintaining the embargo on the people of Iraq.

Ekeus' report to the Security Council should be a final one that would lead to an easing of the embargo as stated

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in Para 22 of Resolution 687. Ekeus' report to the Security Council should do the people of Iraq justice.

Otherwise Iraq has the full right to stop the injustice that has claimed the lives of thousands.

BABIL: No Forgiving Saudi, Kuwaiti Rulers

JN1110115694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—Today's issue of BABIL has warned whom it describes as small traitors that all forces of evil cannot protect them from the anger of the Iraqis if their patience comes to an end. In an article written by Dr. Sabah Yasin under the headline, "God Be Our Witness If the Iraqis Get Angry," the paper says: The agent small traitors are financing the blockade plot with the money they are stealing from the oil of the Arabs. They should pay for every Iraqi drop of blood that was shed in aggression and for every pain caused by starvation and continuous suffering on the land of Iraq.

BABIL says: This, as well as the coming generations, will not forgive the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for what they have caused to the Iraqis. And the day of judgment will certainly come.

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'Terrorist' Attack Kills 2; Gunmen Killed

Hamas Claims Responsibility

TA1010054694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A woman and an Arab resident of the Jerusalem area were killed last night in a terrorist attack in Nahalat Shiv'a in the center of Jerusalem. Thirteen people were wounded but only six remain in hospital. The two terrorists who perpetrated the attack were killed by police.

Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that early this morning, the Jerusalem police completed an initial investigation of the incident. The probe revealed that at approximately 2330 [2130 GMT] last night, two terrorists opened fire with automatic weapons at people sitting in cafes along the Nahalat Shiv'a promenade. Soldiers and armed civilians in the crowd returned fire and prevented the terrorists from unrestricted operation. Policemen from a Border Police commando unit rushed to the scene and killed the terrorists as they were about to hurl hand grenades.

A huge uproar broke out and the police sent in about 300 policemen, who remained at the scene until approximately 0200 [0000 GMT], mainly due to rumors of a third terrorist. A police helicopter also searched the area. Arabs around Nahalat Shiv'a were detained for questioning and one of them was attacked by an angry mob.

Early this morning a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman telephoned our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem and said that the attack was in retaliation for the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs.

Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that four people were hospitalized in serious condition at Jerusalem's Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital, three of whom are now undergoing surgery. Another two people were hospitalized in light to moderate conditon at other hospitals.

More on Hamas Statement

MM1110112594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Oct 94 p3

[Unattributed report: "Two Hamas Members, One of Them Egyptian, Carried Out the Jerusalem Operation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Occupied Jerusalem, AL-HAYAH—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) yesterday claimed responsibility for the operation carried out in West Jerusalem at midnight on Sunday in which four people were killed and 14 injured, including a U.S. official whose name and exact job were not immediately known. [passage omitted]

In A statement distributed in Gaza, Hamas claimed responsibility "for the heroic battle fought in the heart of occupied Jerusalem in which dozens of Israeli settlers and soldiers were killed or injured and two of our righteous fighters were martyred."

It added that "this heroic 40-minute battle came on the anniversary of the al-Aqsa massacre committed by Israeli soldiers and carefully planned by (Yitzhaq) Rabin's terrorist government." [passage omitted]

Hamas emphasized in its statement that "the armed resistance on Palestinian territory will continue until the ugly occupation is driven out of every inch of Palestinian territory.... The armed operations will not stop so long as there is a single Israeli soldier on our occupied territory."

The statement said that the two men who carried out the operation and were killed were Hasan 'Abbas from Gaza and 'Isam Muhanna Isma'il al-Jawhari, an Egyptian. [passage omitted]

A photcopy of the passport of one of the gunmen who carried out the operation indicated that he was an Egyptian visiting Israeli on a tourist entry visa given by the Israeli Embassy in Cairo. [passage omitted]

A Hamas official said that that was the first time Hamas has used a non-Palestinian in a fedayeen operation against Israel. He added that al-Jawhari "wanted to die for the Palestinian cause and he told Hamas that he came to fight until death and wanted to be a martyr."

The copy of al-Jawhari's passport, obtained by REUTER, showed that he had an expired one-month tourist entry visa to Israel carrying the number 788216/1944. It also showed that al-Jawhari entered Gaza from Egypt on 14 July via the Rafah crossing point controlled by Isael.

According to Palestinian sources, 'Abbas, the other man killed, was released from an Israeli prison three months ago and was living in Gaza. They say that he spent two years in prison on a charge of anti-Israeli activity. [passage omitted]

Shahal on Attack

TA1010103794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The funeral of Ma'ayan Levi, a female soldier killed last night during the terrorist attack in Jerusalem, will take place at 1600 [1400 GMT] this afternoon at Bet Zayt near the capital. The second person killed in the attack was Samir Mugrabi, a resident of Kafr 'Aqab near Jerusalem. His wife Na'ila was wounded in the leg.

There has been an improvement in the condition of those injured in the attack who remain hospitalized. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that two of those wounded are described as being in moderate to serious condition, two are in moderate condition, and two are suffering from moderate to light injuries. One of those wounded, and already discharged from the hospital, is an American employee of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

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Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that the police suspect that the two terrorists who perpetrated last night's attack in Jerusalem were former collaborators. He was speaking before the Knesset House Committee. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the police minister believes that the fact that one of the terrorists served with the Palestinian police must be thoroughly examined with the Palestinian Authority. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Policeman Said Among Gunmen

TA1010094294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the terrorists killed last night in Jerusalem was a Palestinian policeman from Gaza and the second terrorist was a resident of the Gaza Strip. Both belong to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Our correspondents Yoni Ben-Menahem and Dani Zaqen report that the name of the Palestinian policeman is 'Isam al-Jawhari, 22, who came from Egypt with the 'Ayn Jallud Brigade approximately three months ago. The name of the second terrorist is Hasan 'Abbas, a 22-year-old Gaza resident who spent two years in an Israeli prison.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0925 GMT on 10 October adds that "the Palestinian policeman's name did not appear on the lists submitted to Israel by the PLO for approval," which in itself "constitutes a violation of the agreements."]

No Confirmation Gunman Was Policeman

TA1010162594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing the Knesset Labor faction today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that there is as of yet no confirmation that one of the terrorists killed last night in Jerusalem was a Palestinian policeman. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister said that the terrorist had an Egyptian laissez-passer and had entered the Gaza Strip from Rafah on 14 June. The prime minister added that one of the terrorists had a note in his pocket saying that he must phone the Egyptian ambassador in Israel, which could very well mean that the terrorists had also intended to take hostages.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal praised the performance of the border police and the behavior of citizens and noted that the terrorists were killed by police gunfire and not by civilians carrying arms.

Palestinian sources told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that the terrorist Hasan 'Abbas, who was shot dead last night in the course of the attack in downtown Jerusalem, had been released from jail three months ago after signing a commitment to stop engaging in terror.

Uncertainty continues over the identity of the second terrorist who took part in the attack. A senior source in the Palestinian police has denied that 'Isam al-Jawhari was a Palestinian policeman. According to this source, al-Jawhari was an Egyptian citizen who had also been active in a radical Muslim organization in his country.

In contrast, senior Palestinian sources persist in their version that al-Jawhari was a policeman. According to these sources, he was posted in Gaza's central prison, walked around in uniform, and was armed.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th denounced the attack last night in downtown Jerusalem, saying that if it turns out that one of the terrorists was a Palestinian policeman the Palestinian Authority will bear the responsibility for it. Dr. Sha'th told our correspondent Yoni Ben- Menahem that at this point it is not yet clear whether the terrorist was a Palestinian policeman.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi also denounced the attack, saying she hopes such incidents will not recur in the future.

Gunman Not Palestinian Policeman

TA1010193094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today told the Knesset Labor faction that the terrorists had intended to carry out a massacre and not to take hostages notwithstanding the fact that one of them had a note in his pocket saying that he must phone the Egyptian ambassador. Rabin said the terrorists could not possibly have managed to get from Gaza to Jerusalem with all the weapons in their possession. Consequently, it is to be presumed that they received the weapons in the Jerusalem area. The prime minister disclosed that he intends to look into stiffening the punishment of employers who allow Palestinian workers who have no entry permits to sleep over in Israel.

The PLO has denounced the terrorist attack in Jerusalem which, according to them, sabotages the peace efforts. The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads in Gaza assumed responsibility for the attack in the pedestrian mall. The two terrorists who perpetrated the attack are: Hasan 'Abbas of Gaza, who used to be an aide of 'Imad 'Aql, a prominent Hamas terrorist who was killed about six months ago by Israeli soldiers, and 'Isam al-Jawhari. Contrary to earlier reports, al-Jawhari was not a Palestinian policeman. He was expelled from the Egyptian Army due to his connections with extremist Islamic groups. He entered Israel with a tourist visa issued by the Israeli Embassy in Cairo.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 10 October adds that Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz "is of the opinion that al-Jawhari was not a member of the Palestinian police operating in the Gaza Strip."

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[The report goes on to quote 'Arafat's aide Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi as saying that "the Palestinians have officially informed Israel that al-Jawhari was not a policeman."]

Hamas today distributed a videotape the two terrorists recorded before setting out on their attack last night. The two talk about themselves, with one of them describing himself as a resident of Cairo, while the other says he is a student at Gaza's Islamic University. Spicing their remarks with verses from the Koran, they say they are setting out on a suicide mission in order to avenge the crimes of the Rabin government and to fulfill the precept of jihad. Their grenade belts and weapons are also shown in the film. Hamas recently began filming perpetrators on videotape before they depart on suicide missions, as Hizballah in Lebanon customarily does.

Officials React to Developments at Iraq-Kuwait Border

IDF: Iraqi Moves 'Show of Strength'

TA0710184794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Oct 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] does not find it necessary to take any steps at this time as a result of the Iraqi Army movement toward Kuwait. Our military correspondent Roni Daniyel reports that Israel was briefed by the Pentagon about the latest developments. Israeli security elements assess that the movement is basically an Iraqi show of strength.

IDF: 'No Threat' in Developments

TA1010061394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The assessment of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff is that the developments in Iraq and the Persian Gulf constitute no threat to Israel.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe was told that the General Staff was constantly conducting situation analyses and reviewing the situation with the prime minister and the chief of staff. Israel is receiving continuous updates from the United States.

Yesterday, many people came to the distribution centers for protective kits but there was no pressure. Most of the country's residents have replaced their protective kits and only 300,000 people have failed to do so.

Rabin: Israel Not Yet Involved

TA0910093994 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Oct 94 p 5

[Report by Roni Sofer and Tamar Golan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes the tension between the United States and Iraq has nothing to do with Israel at this point.

Israeli political sources report that Rabin made these remarks after being briefed by the heads of the defense establishment and hearing updates from the United States throughout the day. The sources say Rabin was not briefed by the U.S. Administration, but they believe that in the next few days State Department officials will hold talks with Israeli diplomats in Washington on this issue.

Political sources say the assessment in Washington is that Saddam Husayn is acting out of desperation. [passage omitted]

Baraq, Security Sources Comment

TA0910063394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Oct 94

[Report by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq yesterday finished his visit to Britain. Last Friday he was the guest of the British Royal Air Force in northern Scotland, where met members of a Tornado squadron who participated in raids on Iraq during the Gulf War. During his visit Baraq met the secretary of state for foreign affairs, the secretary of defense, chief of staff, the heads of intelligence organizations, and the officers who led the British forces in the Gulf War. In his meeting with the secretaries of foreign affairs and defense, Lieutenant General Baraq asked that Britain and the United States proceed with the international pressure on Iraq. He also emphasized the danger emanating from the increasing military strength of Iran.

Yesterday Baraq said that for quite some time Israel has been emphasizing in all its meetings with leaders of free world the importance of the ongoing international supervision to curb Iraq's nonconventional activity. He said the two issues are connected and constitute a test of the collective political will of the West. It is possible that Saddam Husayn's recent reaction reflects the significance of continuing this effort, because to a certain extent it reflects his difficult situation. Baraq said that against the background of our experience it is important that we continue to closely monitor events. It is also vital that the coalition countries whose forces are still deployed in Tu[illegible], Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states continue to closely and alertly follow events and that they take all possibilities into account. Baraq also said that if Saddam Husayn succeeds in extricating himself from his difficulties this could constitute a dangerous precedent.

The chief of staff stressed that the same Western effort must be simultaneously and independently exerted vis-a-vis the long-term danger from the Iranian regime.

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Israeli security sources are continuing to closely monitor the events in Iraq. The sources say that there are no current signs of danger. The sources believe the timing of Husayn's move is not accidental, but is connected to the imminent UN Security Council discussion on the sanctions against Iraq.

The sources say it is amazing that Saddam dares to carry out such moves after the Gulf War experience. This is additional proof that violence is at the core of his thinking; the lesson is that if the sanctions on Iraq are lifted it is certain he will resume the development of nuclear and other nonconventional weapons. This demonstrates that Saddam Husayn has learned nothing. Those who harbored illusions that it is possible to maintain a dialogue with this person now understand that when Saddam feels he is capable of acting violently he immediately does so.

Officials React to Interview by Syria's al-Shar'

Beilin, Parties React

TA0810144494

[FBIS Editorial Report] Following an interview on Israel Television by Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' on 8 October, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 8 October carries a report on reaction, which quotes Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin as saying al-Shar's interview was "the fruit of protracted American efforts. He regarded it as a very important step in the framework of shuttle diplomacy, but it was not enough. What was needed now was to raise the level of the talks to a senior political grade. The newest aspect in al-Shar's interview, Beilin added, was the importance of the opportunity for peace and the mutuality of the fruits of peace. Beilin had reservations about al Shar's view of the past and his definition of Israel's establishment as a blow to the Arabs. Beilin also objected to al-Shar's claim that Syria had never attacked civilian targets in Israel. Referring to Christopher's shuttle, the deputy foreign minister said it has special importance for internal American reasons and regional causes."

The report goes on to say: "The Likud and Tzomet parties, reacting to al-Shar's interview, warned of a Syrian trap. The chairman of the Likud's political committee, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, said al-Shar' proved there is no change in the Syrian stand. He added it was obvious the Syrians had responded to the appeals of Rabin and Peres to flatter public opinion in Israel and educate the public towards the handing over of the Golan Heights. Tzomet said it was obvious the Syrians wanted the Golan Heights without giving anything in return in order to threaten the Galilee. And the Golan Settlements' Committee asked al-Shar' whether he considered Ha'on, Tel Qatzir, 'En Gev, and Gadot as military targets."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 8 October quotes Labor Knesset Member Avigdor Qahalani as saying that "we can agree today to Syrian sovereignty on the Golan Heights if the area remains with Israel for 50 years in order to institutionalize the goodneighborly relations on the Hong Kong model. Eli Malka, head of the Golan Settlements' Committee, rejected the idea."

Rabin: Interview 'Positive Step'

TA0910195094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Oct 94

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik at the president's residence in Jerusalem on 9 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sukenik] What is your opinion of the Syrian foreign minister's first interview with Israel Television?

[Rabin] I think it is a positive step by virtue of its being something that has never happened until now. The second point is the way he tried to convey his message to us. He did it very calmly, or, as someone described it: In musical terms, it was all right.

As for content, the gaps have naturally remained unchanged. Yet in any bridging move made by an Arab state that used to be at war with us and once sought our annihilation, the process may be slow in some cases and quick in others. I think the psychological and emotional barriers, the breaking of tradition, are the main problem. Of course, there are practical problems as well. Therefore, it is a step forward, but it does not solve the problems that still divide us.

[Sukenik] Do you expect further addresses by senior Syrian leaders, perhaps by President al-Asad, to the Israeli public?

[Rabin] The problem is not Israeli public opinion. An address like this is heard by the Syrian nation as well. I think it is very important that Arab leaders address us with the same content they use with their own people.

Rabin, 'Sources' on Interview

TA0910093194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in Israel today on the first leg of a week-long shuttle mission between Jerusalem and Damascus aimed at narrowing the gaps between the sides.

At the background of Christopher's visit looms Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar's interview to Israel Television this past Friday. Senior Israeli political sources have defined al-Shar's appeal to Israeli public opinion as "a gesture in the right direction."

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Prime Minister Rabin, who watched the interview, believes al-Shar' responded to Israel's demand to publicly voice Syria's position regarding an arrangement with Israel.

At the same time Israeli political sources have noted that "the negotiations between Israel and Syria have to be conducted between Rabin and al-Asad, not by Ehud Ya'ari and Faruq al-Shar'."

Rabin's associates have jokingly suggested that the Syrians should now be convinced to hold an interview on Syrian television with Foreign Minister Peres or his deputy Yosi Beilin.

On a more serious note they added that al-Shar's appearance does not obligate Israel to change its position regarding the negotiations with Syria. "We will not return Mt. Hermon to Syria just because Faruq al-Shar' deems it appropriate to give an interview to Ehud Ya'ari after a protracted U.S. effort which lasted more than two years," the political sources said. At the same time they realize that Syria has carried out a gesture and now the ball is in Israel's court. [passage omitted]

Likud's Netanyahu Comments

TA0810154594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by 'Adi Talmor in Jerusalem—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Talmor] Did the Syrian foreign minister succeed in convincing you of the sincerity of Damascus' intention to reach genuine peace with Israel?

[Netanyahu] He convinced me of the sincerity of Damascus' intention of getting back all of the Golan Heights. He convinced me of the intention of Damascus—@in collusion with the current Israeli Government—to trick the Israeli public through a readiness to make use of the media not to change any of its positions, but simply to appear, talk, and try to persuade the public that it has the right to receive all of the Golan Heights.

[Talmor] Can we assume you have not been won over?

[Netanyahu] I listened closely to Faruq al-Shar's remarks. I remember him in Madrid where I also listened attentively to his address. We also had an exchange of views behind the scenes via Secretary of State Baker. The position I heard then and the one I heard today are no different, not only in their demands—that we withdraw from the Golan Heights, from territory Syria received illegally by tearing up the mandate of the Jewish national homeland and then attacking us for over 19 years prior to the Six-Day War and then during the Yom Kippur War—but also in their justification of it. In other words, there is no need to change the Syrian position so as to take into account Israel's rights and its concern for its security. They say it is unnecessary because it is Israel which attacked Syria, it is Israel which shelled Syrian civilian settlements, it is Israel which starts wars all the time. In other words, not only has there not been any change in the Syrian position, which demands everything, but it is justified by the rewriting of history.

[Talmor] But with all due respect, Mr. Netanyahu, you have to be blind not to see that things have changed in Damascus. Is that not so?

[Netanyahu] Of course things are changing. I said that before the Madrid conference and after it. I said Syria is being forced to change its position because it needs the United States. The move we are witnessing now, including yesterday's interview, is primarily aimed at pleasing the United States, to give Christopher something when he arrives here. Syria, however, says all the time: If I can get away with not making Syrian concessions, but with smiles, and permitting this Israeli Government to carry out its surrender, its withdrawal, then that is to be welcomed.

[Talmor] But that does not leave any hope that we might succeed in reaching true peace with Syria without giving up the entire Golan Heights, right?

[Netanyahu] Had we had a government which insisted, as I do, on Syrian concessions, and presented a firm stand, I believe that possibility would have existed or would exist. It has been harmed by the government's lenient position, which says to al-Asad: You can have it all. We have to understand that the outlook of this government is different from the concept I represent. I say that the problem is not only intentions. For a start, from what I heard yesterday the intentions are not good. The intention is to get everything. Let us assume, as Minister Peres said in Washington, that a peace treaty is signed with Syria. He was asked why he wants American soldiers. He replied that we should remember that even if Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights and there is a peace agreement, Syria will still be able to start a new war. I do not think several hundred American soldiers can hold up advancing Syrian divisions. There is no alternative to a defensive IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence on the Golan Heights. That is why our concept says that in any peace agreement we need to be prepared for a violation of the agreement. That is the big difference.

Here, Syria and the Israeli Government are trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the Israeli public, to prepare it for a pullout from the Golan, so that there will not be a defensive Israeli force on the Golan which can assure the upholding of the peace. Therefore, what this government is doing in collusion with al-Asad is to prepare a comprehensive withdrawal. The struggle over the national referendum has started; that is obvious.

[Talmor] To conclude, Mr. Netanyahu, let me ask you about the current situation on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. I asked Mr. Peres if we should prepare our gas masks. What is your view?

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[Netanyahu] I hope not. I cannot make more precise evaluations because I do not have more detailed information. It is clear, however, that Iraq has not changed its aggressive character. It has the same dictator, the same Army—which is being strengthened—by the way, just as is happening in Syria—and Saddam Husayn apparently feels that in the current international situation he has more freedom of activity, less supervision of UN sanctions, especially by the Europeans, and he is exploiting that situation.

That touches on our basic concept. We want a genuine durable peace, but we know that cannot be with the neighbors we have. They are armed military dictatorships, which have not changed their internal character. In Damascus and Baghdad there are one-man dictatorships. They can decide one day to sign a peace accord and violate it the next day, to honor agreements one day and violate them the next day, or they can be replaced, as Minister Peres said in Washington about Hafiz al-Asad. The same is true of Saddam Husayn. We have to take into account that the Iraqi threat is real, even if not immediate, and we have to prepare for the possibility that one day that threat will once again be directed at us.

Therefore, we want to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria, which would dislodge the real buffer zone between us and Iraq, which is Jordan's Hashemite kingdom. That leads to our concept of peace, one which defends us against the possibility of a recurrence of war on the eastern front. It would not depend on assurances Hafiz al-Asad or Saddam Husayn give us. Saddam Husayn can also turn to you today and say: I have stopped, I promise I will be okay, which is precisely what he told the Americans and yet he violates promises the moment he has a chance. That is why the peace we speak about is true peace based on Israel's deterrent capability with an IDF presence on the Golan Heights—and not anybody else—and an Israel which maintains its defensive wall in Judaea and Samaria and prevents the expansion of a Palestinian state first into that territory and from there into the buffer zone called the Jordanian kingdom, in order to defend ourselves against the Iraqi threat.

Peres on Iraqi Threat, al-Shar' Interview

TA0810144194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Paris by 'Adi Talmor—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Talmor] We have Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the line from Paris. Good morning, Sir. Should we dust off our gas masks?

[Peres] No, nobody will need gas masks this time, but the Iraqis will have to wise up. The man who leads them is half mad, we know that, but I do not think he will be excused this time if he does anything stupid.

[Talmor] Can you at all understand what Saddam Husayn wants and how far all this will go?

[Peres] In my view, what he wants by from time to time exerting pressure on the allies, the United States, is to show the Arab world: Look, I am doing what none of you are capable of doing. It is usually muscle flexing, the main aim being to get himself a place in the Arab world, but he is unpredictable.

[Talmor] When you say that this time he will not be allowed to do anything, does that mean an imminent U.S. attack against him or something like that?

[Peres] I am not prepared to make forecasts, but I do not think so. By the way, I do not think he will go to the brink. He will stop at some point, but there is no point in making predictions.

[Talmor] By the way, in reference to the developments in Iraq, I recall the reports about secret contacts in the past and recently between Israel and Iraq. Do such contacts still exist?

[Peres] The reports are totally unfounded. What happened, I think, is that several Iraqis tried to create the impression that they have contacts with us in order to confuse the enemy. On our part, there were no contacts and there will be no contacts. No contacts are carried out with an irresponsible, unreliable, unpredictable person. What for? There would not be negotiations with Iraq, but with the half-mad person who heads Iraq.

[Talmor] You are saying that the current situation in Iraq has nothing to do with us?

[Peres] No, I do not think it affect us. First of all, he no longer has so many Scuds—either all or most have gone, and if some Scuds are discovered then there will immediately be a call for much closer supervision than has been the case up to now.

[Talmor] Now, to the special interview granted by the Syrian foreign minister to Israel Television. I assume that you heard about it and perhaps even been informed of its contents.

[Peres] Yes, I read it and heard about it, and I am very pleased about it. I think that it is a good and proper move. It is a pity it was not done earlier. We have still not solved all the problems between us, but from a psychological point of view—and negotiations also have a significant psychological side—it is definitely an important and valuable step.

[Talmor] By the way, were you a partner to cooking up that special interview?

[Peres] No, I was not a partner to cooking up that interview, I was a partner to the pressure imposed on the Syrians to come out publicly. That was not the only interview. There were a number of interviews. When

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that interview came up I definitely supported it, and I thought other interviews should also be given, even at a higher level.

[Talmor] Did the Americans raise the idea of the interview?

[Peres] The Americans raised the idea that a Syrian should appear on Israel Television, that they should meet with Israeli journalists, that Israelis should be permitted to visit Syria. We had long discussions on that and our position on that is of course clear.

[Talmor] Can last night's interview with the Syrian foreign minister be called a dramatic breakthrough in the negotiations with Syria or is it merely a prelude to the breakthrough that might come during Christopher's visit to the region?

[Peres] I think that it is an important step. We do not have to talk about breakthroughs at all, we are moving ahead in an orderly way from point to point, and that was an important step forward. The remarks still contain several things which do not please us.

[Talmor] Such as?

[Peres] Such as: I do not want to make a prior commitment about the steps to come; it is obvious that when peace comes things will happen. Even the point about the meeting between the Israeli prime minister and the Syrian president. To my regret, people are being killed as long as there is no peace. That does not look like a reason to me. [sentence as heard] Even the very fact that he opposed such a step up to now, but the past cannot be corrected. I regard that appearance as an important step forward and I welcome it.

[Talmor] Do you think that his remarks will convince the Israeli public about the earnestness of Damascus' intentions?

[Peres] I think it makes an important contribution. It is not a matter of winning over the Israeli public, the public is convinced.

Peres on 'Terrorist' Attack, Iraq, Syrian Track

TA1010092694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan on 10 October; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dan] We spoke to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres a short while ago and asked him whether he had also received the impression that there was a link between yesterday's terrorist attack in Jerusalem and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Israel. We also asked Peres whether he had spoken to the secretary of state since the murderous attack.

[Peres] No, not yet. I only returned to Israel yesterday and am to meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher this morning. However, I do not need to wait for a reaction. I know what the reaction will be. Neither of us will permit Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to hold the negotiations hostage. We deeply regret this incident, and I would like to take this opportunity to extend my condolences to the bereaved families; however, we must annihilate Hamas by the roots. Caving in to it will only increase its influence. The war is not over and we never said that the danger had entirely passed. We said that the nature of the threat had changed. The danger exists more in the irrational sense than in as a concrete threat from across the border.

[Dan] Do you believe that Hamas, which is constantly increasing its size and power, can be eradicated?

[Peres] Yes. It will take time. This cannot be done overnight; however, I do not see any other way of doing it. Nor do I expect anyone else to do the job in our stead. In addition, the region must undergo a fundamental economic change. One can see that throughout the world, violence decreases as the standard of living rises. Anyone who thinks that it is only a matter of establishing new municipalities is taking the easy way out and misleading others.

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, I imagine that a great many Israelis tend to see the downside of the peace process. Perhaps the government should take some dramatic steps....

[Peres, interrupting] Great, so what happens if we halt the peace process? Will Hamas fall apart? Stopping the peace process would only reward it.

[Friedman] I am talking about dramatic steps against Hamas, for example mass arrests, closures, the deportation of their leaders.

[Peres] That will not help. We must do everything possible from the military aspect such as carrying out arrests and so forth; however, this will not alter the situation in any fundamental way. Look, approximately 120,000 Palestinians have been detained in Israeli prisons and this phenomenon has not been eradicated. We have no intention of bowing to terrorism or succumbing to fear. We will strike at the heads and at the operative branches of these groups.

[Friedman] Do you have any specific demands of Yasir 'Arafat? The terrorists came from areas under his control.

[Peres] I demand that he fulfill his part.

[Friedman] Which he has so far failed to do adequately.

[Peres] I do not know whether this is the case. He must start acting and he must do more. We all must do more. After all, even we cannot watch every single corner and

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every movement. I do not want to criticize 'Arafat nor do I wish to portray him as Israel's protector. Neither one is the case.

[Dan] Will we have to learn to live with such incidents in the foreseable future?

[Peres] No. I think we must make a supreme effort to conclude the peace process and eliminate the political reasons for the violence. We must accompany this with a supreme effort to build a new Middle East. I realize that many people consider this a catchword, but for me it is more than just a slogan, it is a reality. This, in addition to the activity of the security services who once again acted swiftly and courageously, thus preventing a terrible disaster.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, we would also like you to comment on the latest developments on the Iraq-Kuwait border. Although the likelihood of this still seems rather slim, many Israelis have nevertheless expressed concern about the possibility of a new war which could also affect us. What is your estimate?

[Peres] In my assessment, the present situation cannot be compared to the past. Saddam Husayn does not possess the same missiles, does not enjoy the same freedom of action, and does not have the advantage of surprise. This is not the same Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi people have a big and dangerous enemy that will lead them to disaster and his name is Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi people have to start defending themselves.

[Friedman] One more question about the Syrian track. Did you hear whether Secretary of State Christopher was bringing any new proposals on his shuttle mission?

[Peres] We will learn about this when he arrives from Syria. I met Christopher in the United States over the weekend and I do not assume that anything dramatic has occured in the interim. We may hear new things when he returns from Syria after the next series of meetings.

[Friedman] Perhaps the Syrians will make do with their goodwill gesture of giving an interview to Israel Television's Ehud Ya'ari. In their opinion, this constitutes a big step.

[Peres] That is possible. This move came a bit late. It is important. The Syrians must also make haste however, and although I greatly appreciate this gesture it is still not enough in order to really achieve a breakthrough.

[Dan] Thank you very much Foreign Minister Peres.

Rabin, Peres on Attack, Syria Track, Iraq Crisis

TA1010122494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Segal] Speaking at an impromptu news conference at the conclusion of their meeting in Jerusalem today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Secretary of State Warren Christopher that yesterday's terrorist attack had cast a heavy shadow over the latter's visit. In their statements, the two men dealt at length with the terrorist attack at Nahalat Shiv'a in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin started by commenting on yesterday's terrorist attack:

[Begin Rabin recording] The despicable terrorist attack by the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] murderers in the center of Jerusalem once again constitutes proof of the murderers' base nature. They seek to attack innocent Israeli civilians, residents of Jerusalem. There is no doubt that their goal is to kill Israelis and to kill the peace process. We will fight Hamas with all our force and will not permit it to harm the peace process. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Segal] A short while ago, at the conclusion of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' meeting with the secretary of state, we asked the foreign minister to comment on the reports that one of the terrorists served in the Palestinian police.

[Begin Peres recording] I am not looking for another protector for Israel. We expect Yasir 'Arafat to do his job where he is responsible. He is not responsible for Jerusalem and I do not want to make him a new partner in the protection of Jerusalem. There is no need for that. He definitely has to make sure that his police force does not recruit terrorists in disguise or impersonators. [end recording]

[Segal] Prime Minister Rabin and Secretary of State Christopher also held a discreet, almost tete-a-tete discussion on the Syrian track at a meeting in a limited forum which also included Itamar Rabinovich and Dennis Ross. At the conclusion of his meeting with Christopher, Foreign Minister Peres also commented very briefly on the Syrian issue and said that progress had been made recently but reiterated that the gaps between both parties' positions were still very large.

[A similar report by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 10 October adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning said that there were still unresolved differences with Syria." In a recorded passage in English, Rabin says: "I know that still the problem of negotiations with Syria remains unsolved yet. What we want is peace and security in dignity for Israel and Syria, because otherwise it will not be based on a real solid basis."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 10 October also carries a similar report with a recorded passage of Prime Minister Rabin speaking in English in which the prime minister says: "Israel supports President Clinton's policy of the dual containment of Iran and Iraq. And as long as Iraq will not comply with the resolution of the international community to which Iraq was committed at the end of the war, we see no reason to do anything to facilitate Iraq not to do what it is

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committed to do. We do not see at this stage any problem to Israel. Israel is strong militarily and can cope with whatever eventuality."]

Cabinet Discusses Iraqi Crisis, al-Shar' Interview

TA0910114694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] This morning's cabinet meeting voted unanimously to appoint Major General Amnon Shahaq, the current deputy chief of staff, to be the next chief of staff. The appointment of the deputy chief of staff has been delayed. The cabinet also discussed Iraq, and the chief of staff reported that there was no need for concern as far as Israel is concerned. A special communique was issued reiterating the government's full support for continuing immigration without any restrictions. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] The chief of staff reported to the cabinet that there was no need for concern over the developments in Iraq, because Baghdad does not have the ability to endanger Israel. However, Police Minister Moshe Shahal demanded a special cabinet meeting to discuss the situation in Iraq with detailed intelligence reports. I asked Minister Shahal if Israel was taking any special precautions.

[Shahal] We are doing what we have to do and we are looking at the development of the events. I believe that everything that will be done will be based on information that we will have during those days and hours to see what is the intent, what is the meaning of this movement of the Iraqi forces.

[Weiss] As expected, the cabinet unanimously approved the appointment of the deputy chief of staff, Major General Amnon Shahaq, as the new chief of staff, and he will take over on the first of January. No decision was taken on who will be his deputy, and the prime minister, Shahaq, and outgoing chief of staff Ehud Baraq will discuss the issue. Concerning this week's shuttle diplomacy by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, ministers were playing down hopes of any dramatic breakthrough on the Syrian front. Police Minister Moshe Shahal:

[Shahal] I think that the American Administration and Secretary Christopher was right when he had a very low profile on the expectations of this visit. I think that the talks with Syria is a long process and it is not going to be finalized during this week.

[Weiss] The interview granted by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Israel Television on Friday night was also discussed, with most ministers reacting positively.

A special government communique was issued on the question of immigration, following the storm raised by comments by Labor Minister Ora Namir in favor of selective aliyah. The prime minister gave his full backing to a communique drawn up by Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban and the other Meretz ministers. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Beilin on al-Shar' Interview, Iraqi Crisis

TA0910121094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A short while ago U.S. of State Warren Christopher arrived in Israel for the latest round of shuttle diplomacy aimed at reviving the peace negotiations between Jerusalem and Damascus. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says Israel and Syria are closer then ever to an agreement, and it's now in the hand of the Americans to bridge the existing gaps. Beilin told reporter Jack Katzenell he expects to see confidence-building-measures [CBM's] in the future:

[Begin recording] [Beilin] The breakthrough is not something which happens in one visit, it is an ongoing process and if I compare the situation today to the situation some months ago, the development is quite impressive, although it is not enough. I think that the interview of Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister of Syria, was an important step forward, despite the fact that it was not very simple and there were some questionable parts o this interview. I believe that we should see some more CBM's in the future, and I think that this visit may contribute to this process of CBM's, not only in this context, but also in the context of the security measures and the other problems on our agenda.

[Katzenell] Are you worried about the Iraqi troop concentrations on the Kuwaiti border?

[Beilin] Well, after the developments in 1990 it is impossible not to take note of what is happening there. It would be wrong to dismiss it, although it would be wrong to believe that what happened there is going to be repeated exactly. I see it more as a kind of signal of the Iraqi regime to the Americans, but once you play with weapons it is always dangerous, and I hope that the American reaction—which was the right one—will prevent the Iraqis to do anything which might create an explosion in this part of the world. [end recording]

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King Advises Saddam Against Repeating 'Mistake'

JN1110095094 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 11 Oct 94 pp 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn has said that he advised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn "not to repeat the mistake of 1990." The king added that this position "was conveyed to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz," when he stopped in Amman on his way back to Baghdad from New York.

In a telephone interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, his majesty said "we will stand against any use of force by an Arab against another Arab. We are with the side against which aggression is committed. Therefore, we advised Iraq not to repeat the past mistake and invade Kuwait once again."

His majesty hoped, as reported by REUTER and AFP, that Jordan's position in this regard will be "clear to the Gulf states," indicating that "should the logic of dialogue be boosted, it will lead to avoiding the previous mistakes."

He stressed that "the Iraqi people should be spared the dangers to which we do not want them to be exposed. If these people are to live a dignified life, the approach should be different. This cannot be achieved through mistakes and inaccurate calculations."

His majesty said: We support resolving issues through dialogue and not by committing mistakes and resorting to the use of force." He added: "Once the logic of dialogue with the world is boosted, previous mistakes will be avoided." [passage omitted on unrelated issues]

'Official Spokesman' Reacts to Gulf Situation

JN0910163994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Oct 94

["Announcement" issued by the official spokesman of the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 9 October—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian leadership and government are monitoring, with every interest and concern, the recent developments in the region regarding the Iraqi military movements toward the south and the possibility of exacerbation that cannot be in the interest of any Arab.

Proceeding from its concern with Arab interests, blood, and fate, Jordan—leadership, government, and people—stand strongly against the use of force again among the Arab brothers under any circumstances or excuses. While announcing its continuous sympathy with the fraternal Iraqi people and their right to a secure, honorable, and stable life in which all human rights are safeguarded and far away from any form of suffering, Jordan also stands against any threat by any Arab brother to his Arab brother.

The Arab nation has been suffering a great deal from the effects of the Gulf war and its negative results, from its beginning in 1990 until today. This has wasted many opportunities to entrench solidarity among the sons of the nation and paved the way for interference from outside the region in its issues and problems, which we have always called for settling on the Arab level through dialogue and the spirit of brotherhood among the sons of the one nation.

Out of its concern for Iraq's soldiers and people and Kuwait's soldiers and people, and for the interests of its Arab brothers now and in the future, Jordan hopes that the situation will take a different course by working for building confidence among brothers and not through continuing to torpedo it. Confidence should be built on entrenched and unshakeable bases through constructive dialogue so as to eliminate the injustice inflicted on the sons of the nation and so that our nation will be able to restore solidarity, so confidence will prevail among all its countries, and so all sides adhere to all that is necessitated by brotherhood and pan-Arab interests. All must adhere to what is necessary in terms of noninterference in the internal affairs of any Arab country, and in terms of not using arms to settle differences among brothers, especially since Arab arms should not have been brandished in the face of an Arab brother. Nor should they be brandished again. Jordan will unhesitatingly stand against any Arab side that violates this principle.

Press Reaction to Iraq-Kuwait Crisis

JN1010135694

[FBIS Editorial Report] The four Jordanian dailies AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, AL-ASWAQ, and SAWT AL-SHA'B today highlight the current crisis between Iraq and the Western alliance, publishing factual reports on the Iraqi military buildup on the borders with Kuwait as well as statements by Iraqi and U.S. officials on the crisis. They also publish inside-page articles on the crisis.

In almost all their articles and editorials, the four newspapers pursue a moderate line, commending the statement made by an official Jordanian Government spokesman on the crisis yesterday, and recalling King Husayn's efforts to resolve the 1990-91 Gulf crisis peacefully.

Under the headline "To Safeguard Arab Solidarity and Trust," the Arabic daily Amman AL-RA'Y on 10 October publishes on pages 1, 21 an approximately 400-word editorial, underscoring the need for dialogue between Iraq and Kuwait to defuse the current Gulf tension peacefully, saying: "What is required is to exercise self-restraint and reinstate a constructive dialogue between Iraq and Kuwait in order to deny external forces the chance to implement their schemes, which will not be in the interest of Iraqis, Kuwaitis, and other Arabs for that matter."

The paper argues that the Iraqis and Kuwaitis are part of a single Arab nation, and that they share the same

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history, geography, and national woes and aspirations, not to mention neighborhood.

The paper echoes the sentiments enshrined in a statement made by a Jordanian Government spokesman yesterday, saying: "As a matter of course, we are aware of the profundity and dimensions of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis. Nonetheless, the dictates of fraternity and pan-Arab interests require that the Arabs refrain from using force against each other. This should not have happened in the past, nor should it happen at present. Under no circumstances should this be allowed to happen."

The paper concludes by saying that Iraqis, Kuwaitis, and other Gulf nations must make an effort to resolve the dispute. The Arab League and its members are also urged to work to defuse the conflict and arrive at an Arab solution that would achieve an inter-Arab reconciliation. This would, the paper argues, protect Iraqi and Kuwaiti lives.

Under the headline "The Exacerbation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti Situation Poses New Threat to the Nation," Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic on 10 October publishes on page 19 an approximately 400-word editorial, commending the "firm" position Jordan has taken toward the Iraqi military buildup on the borders with Kuwait, saying that this position "is in line with this country's aspirations for a more immune and prosperous Arab homeland, in which communication among fraternal Arabs goes on unimpeded."

AL-ASWAQ echoes the government spokesman's statement opposing the use of force by Arabs against one another "under any circumstances."

Recalling the losses and suffering caused by the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and war, the paper says: "Any fresh escalation of the crisis will definitely not bring any short-term or long-term benefits to either Iraq, Kuwait, or any other Arab country for that matter."

While expressing sympathy with the "fraternal Iraqi people," saying that they have the right to lead "a secure and decent life, in which their human rights are fully safeguarded, away from all forms of agony," the paper says that "the resolution of inter-Arab disputes is not achievable through the use of force, the threat to do so, or military buildups, but rather through building trust among brothers, and not torpedoing it, and also through a constructive dialogue that would lay the grounds for the reestablishment of solidarity, which has been shaken."

The paper concludes by warning against the consequences of any military action in the Gulf.

In an approximately 700-word editorial on pages 1, 20, Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 10 October recalls the lessons of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, stating that had the Arab parties to the Gulf conflict then heeded Jordan's advice and the efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn to reach an Arab solution to the crisis, the nation would have been spared a great deal of disunity, division, and fragmentation. The paper, just like other dailies, commends the statement the government spokesman made yesterday on the current tension on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. The paper urges the concerned fraternal Arab officials to demonstrate the required sense of responsibility in order to spare the nation and region "untold calamities."

On page 2 of the same paper, columnist Salamah al-'Ukur writes an approximately 700-word article on the crisis, denouncing the apathy plaguing Arabs with regard to this crisis, and warning that "no single Middle Eastern country will be spared if war erupts." He adds that "those who are currently beating the drums of war will undoubtedly be its initial fuel once it erupts and exacerbates."

Al-'Ukur laments the fact that Kuwait has not learned the lessons of the 1990-91 crisis, as manifested by its call for foreign military aid and assistance, and also by its failure to achieve an Arab solution to its dispute with Iraq.

Elaborating on this, he adds: "Kuwait, all Arabian Gulf states, and all other Arab states are aware of the immense suffering caused to the Iraqi people by the unfair embargo clamped on them. Consequently, they should have worked to ease this embargo, and to avoid new security crises and explosions that might produce devastating calamities and tragedies."

The writer wonders why the UN Security Council has failed to act to honor its "pledges" by lifting or easing the sanctions.

Al-'Ukur goes on to say: "We are well aware that the UN Security Council has turned into a docile tool in the hands of the U.S. Administration. And for political reasons related to the promotion of its strategic interests in the region, this administration does not want to lift the Iraq sanctions even if Iraq were to take off its clothes and kneel down before all international and regional organizations. This is because the U.S. Administration has a preconceived position toward the Iraqi leadership. It is after the ouster of this leadership. Consequently, all that is being said about Iraq's noncompliance with the relevant international resolutions is merely an excuse to continue to besiege and stifle it, and deny it the ingredients of survival."

Al-'Ukur says: "Today, the UN Security Council will meet to discuss the Iraq issue and the embargo clamped on Iraq. What happens today might be crucial to the present and future of the entire region. The credibility of the Council in terms of its concern for cultural and humanitarian considerations, and also in terms of its concern for peace, security, stability, and human rights will once again be at stake."

Al-'Ukur urges the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities to avert new wars and conflicts in the region.

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The columnist says: "If a new war erupts in the region, God forbid, U.S., British, and other Western interests might get caught in the cross fire."

The writer concludes by saying: "The mere announcement by the UN Security Council of an easing of the sanctions clamped on 20 million Iraqi Arabs is bound to defuse the crisis which, if unleashed, might bring untold damage unless the U.S. Administration and the British Government are fabricating excuses and pretexts to attack fraternal Iraq."

The writer also laments the current Arab situation, saying that the Arabs have turned into powerless people with no active roles to affect the course of events.

Under the headline "A Quiet Jordanian Statement Amidst Frantic Emotions," the newspaper Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 10 October publishes on pages 1, 28 an approximately 450-word editorial on the current Gulf crisis, commending the Jordanian Government's statement on the crisis, and recalling Jordan's efforts to resolve the 1990-91 Gulf crisis peacefully within an Arab context and "away from foreign intervention."

Jordan, the paper says, is eager to protect Kuwaiti and Iraqi lives.

Echoing the government spokesman's statement, the paper says: "While announcing, with a high sense of responsibility, that it will oppose any Arab party that violates the principle of the inadmissibility of the resolution of disputes by force, Jordan is well aware of the immense suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people caused by the four-year old sanctions. This prompts it to urge brothers in Kuwait and the Arabian Peninsula to act to mitigate the suffering of a fraternal Arab people, and to aid their children and elderly in the hope that this may eliminate the bitterness, redress the wounds, and remove the injustice and wrong inflicted on the entire nation."

On page 34 of the same paper and under the "Spotlights" column, columnist Tahir al-'Adwan writes an approximately 450-word article on the crisis, maintaining that the objective of any move Iraqi President Saddam Husayn might make would be to ease "the devastating and fatal embargo clamped on his country and people." He states that the United States and Israel are engaged in a game of death with Iraq.

Elaborating on this, he says: "Whoever has heard the statements made by the U.S. representative to the United Nations, the U.S. defense secretary, and President Clinton can clearly see the sweeping hostility and dark rancor harbored toward Iraq, not because it is ruled by Saddam Husayn, but because it is the remaining vestige of an Arab era marked by opposition to subservience to the West and Zionism."

The writer claims that he is not promoting another Gulf war, in which thousands of Iraqis might die. He also commends Iraq's "irreproachable levelheadedness", saying that Iraq is seeking ways to avert starvation and death, whereas the "United States and its partners are seeking an opportunity to destroy it."

The writer concludes by hoping that the international community's conscience will awaken to act in the direction of lifting the sanctions.

No further processing planned.

Parties Said To Denounce U.S. 'Rabid Campaign'

JN1110063594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Eight Jordanian parties have denounced the rabid campaign launched by the U.S. Administration against Iraq with the aim of finding new excuses to prolong the unjust blockade imposed on its people. These parties are the High Command of the Ba'th Party, the Islamic Action Front, the Pan-Arab Action Front, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, and the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party. The statement issued by these parties in Amman yesterday voiced their solidarity with and support for the people of Iraq and their just right to lift the unjust blockade and restore Iraq's influential role in the international community.

The Jordanian parties called on the Arab and Islamic world to stand with the people of Iraq and support their legitimate demands to end their suffering and the heavy losses that have been inflicted on them.

Kuwaiti Editor Reportedly Interviews King

JN1110081694 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, who is known for his relations with Arab leaders and kings, asked Mashhur al-Zabn, ambassador at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, during his visit to Kuwait, to convey to His Majesty King Husayn his desire to conduct a comprehensive press interview with him.

AL-BILAD has learned that al-Jarallah visited Jordan last week aboard his private plane and conducted a press interview with His Majesty King Husayn.

Political and press circles expect the interview which al-Jarallah conducted with King Husayn, to be the focus of attention, especially since it coincides with the escalating tension between Iraq and Kuwait.

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Government Denounces Iraqi Troop Movements

NC0810121494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a ranking source at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, the Lebanese Government has voiced deep concern over reports about the Iraqi troop movements toward the Kuwaiti border.

While stressing its support for Kuwait's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, the Lebanese Government also would like to reiterate that it places all its capabilities at the disposal of Kuwait. Lebanon denounces any movement bound to harm inter-Arab relations and exacerbate tension in the region, particularly at this stage in which the Arab world is in dire need of unity of ranks, solidarity, and alertness, the source added.

Prime Minister, Other Ministers To Go to Kuwait

NC1010182294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] After meeting the president, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said he had agreed to travel to Kuwait tomorrow accompanied by the defense and foreign ministers to show support for Kuwait.

He added: Kuwait supports us and it is Lebanon's duty to support Kuwait at this stage. On whether there is fear that war may break out in the Gulf, al-Hariri said: I don't know, but the Iraqi regime's behavior cannot be trusted. No one knows what goes on in the mind of the Iraqi leadership.

Buwayz: Iraqi Troops' Withdrawal 'Wise' Step

NC1010204794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that withdrawing the Iraqi troops from al-Basrah will clear the atmosphere of tension and provocation that has prevailed in the region for the past few days. Minister Buwayz visited Prime Minister al-Hariri at his office this evening and had this to say after the meeting:

[Being recording] [Buwayz] As you know, Lebanon's position with respect to Kuwait's sovereignty and independence is clear. The Lebanese Government has issued a clear statement in this regard. We definitely believe that the step taken to withdraw the Iraqi Army is a wise one that will clear the atmosphere of the tension and provocation that has prevailed in the region over the past few days. In any case, a delegation comprising the prime minister and the defense and foreign ministers will travel to Kuwait tomorrow, as you know. A decision on the visit was made this morning. The purpose of the visit is to demonstrate Lebanon's support for and commitment to the sovereignty of the fraternal state of Kuwait.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did you brief the prime minister on your meetings in New York?

[Buwayz] During the meeting we naturally discussed my participation in the UN session in New York as well as the meetings held with the U.S. side, the UN secretary general, and a number of European and Arab foreign ministers. We also discussed several other issues. Perhaps the discussion will continue during our trip to Kuwait tomorrow.

[Correspondent] Could you tell us about the nature of the topics to be discussed?

[Buwayz] You will find out tomorrow. [end recording]

Commentary on Benefits of Escalation to U.S., Gulf

NC1110101494 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Oct 94

["Spotlight on Events" commentary: "Saddam Husayn's Adventure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. There is no doubt that Saddam realizes that [words indistinct] Kuwait, not even the game of threats. He, his regime, and Iraq—land and people—are still suffering from the effects of their last adventure. Undoubtedly, Saddam realizes that the political circumstances involving Iraq have not changed, that sanctions will continue to be imposed on Iraq until further notice, and that the various viewpoints among the members of the Security Council [word indistinct] the U.S. viewpoint are not enough to review the nature of international sanctions against Iraq.

It is true that Russia, China, and France have adopted stances that call for relaxing the sanctions on the basis that Iraq has complied with some of the international resolutions. However, it is also true that you do not draw international attention and sympathy by taking measures that constitute some form of challenge. So far, no correspondent has been able to prove that the Iraqi maneuvers pose a threat to Kuwait. The Iraqi military groups that have been mobilized are still 15 kilometers away from the Kuwaiti border. It seems that Saddam does not want to go further than that and does not want to repeat his past tragic experience. But it is also certain that Saddam is trying to dodge deep internal problems by diverting Iraqi public attention toward external challenges. It is also certain that the first beneficiary of this game in the Gulf region is the United States itself. In fact, it is the first beneficiary [words indistinct] to have received reports about the Iraqi mobilization of troops to announce that it is sending a number of aircraft carriers to the region, in addition to mobilizing over 40,000 soldiers. The objective of these moves is to hamper the progress of the region permanently and place it under direct custodianship. Washington wants to remind the Gulf states that their fate is directly linked to the amount of protection and support the U.S. forces provide and

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[Buwayz] You are aware of the general atmosphere that surrounds UN meetings and that has resulted from the political changes of the past few years. We described to the General Assembly the current conditions in Lebanon with total frankness and realism. We spoke particularly of the situation in south Lebanon resulting from the Israeli occupation. We reviewed the aims and principles of the General Assembly and the United Nations as a whole and spoke of the situation as it stands now in relation to the basic UN principles. The United Nations seeks world peace. In our address to the General Assembly, we wondered about the nature of that peace. The United Nations also seeks to consolidate human rights. We also wondered about this issue and the different criteria with which it is being handled worldwide. I think Lebanon can only be frank and realistic in presenting its conditions, its rights, and the role it expects the United Nations to play. Of course, in addition to the General Assembly meetings, there were numerous side meetings with the representatives of several Arab, European, and American countries. We debated various issues and I believe that these discussions will promote our ties with these countries and promote the issues in which we are collectively interested.

[Correspondent] Minister, as you know U.S. Secretary of State Christopher began a new regional tour today. Judging by your diplomatic exchanges in the United States, what impressions of a future regional solution did you get? In your opinion, is Christopher carrying anything new?

[Buwayz] Doubtlessly the peace dynamism is moving in the direction of Syria. It is clear that the United States is seeking progress in that area in the wake of certain favorable signs. Doubtlessly the Lebanese dossier will also be discussed. I imagine that we can only describe what has happened so far as progress. Several basic and necessary peace concepts have been developed. Nevertheless, exaggerated optimism is not permitted because there are unresolved issues, not less important than the issue of withdrawal itself, which need more discussion. If the current dynamism continues, I believe that the next few months might bring more progress and put the peace operation on the right track.

[Correspondent] Do you think that this will happen by the end of the year?

[Buwayz] I do not want to make any speculations. However, several basic and necessary peace concepts have been developed. They still need more effort. I believe several more months are not a long time when you are trying to solve a crisis of this magnitude.

[Correspondent] Minister, has the U.S. Administration told you anything specific about the U.S. ambassador's departure? Will a new ambassador be appointed?

[Buwayz] I am very sorry to say that the U.S. ambassador's case has been surrounded by so many speculations that are totally untrue. The U.S. ambassador's case is very clear. After leaving for the United States, the U.S. ambassador had medical tests and was told by his doctors that he could not do his work and needed serious medical treatment that precludes his return to his post. It is entirely a health issue. Any different speculation on this issue aiming to provoke unrealistic problems is not right. Furthermore, the way these speculations are being made adversely affect people's morale in this country and our relations with the United States.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] There are numerous issues of mutual interest to us and France. Doubtlessly my meeting with his excellency the French foreign minister revolved around the peace process and Europe's role, particularly France's role, in this context. As to the other contacts with other French officials, they dealt with economic issues, ways of promoting French culture, and some related projects.

[Correspondent] Minister, one last question. During your talks in the United States, was the issue of foreign aid to Lebanon given any fresh impetus?

[Buwayz] My talks in the United States dealt chiefly with political issues. We consider them the most important issues and the way to other issues. I believe that Lebanon needs the world community's assistance in regaining its right in the next few months. I believe that the economic angle is part of this general international assistance.

UK's Hogg Departs, Urges Israeli Withdrawal

NC0810183794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said it is important for the Israeli forces to withdraw from south Lebanon as soon as possible in compliance with Security Council Resolution 425, which is a good basis for any settlement between Lebanon and Israel. He said he believed the UN Interim Force in Lebanon is doing its job perfectly in the south. He renewed the call for an agreement between Lebanon and Israel toward an expanded and comprehensive peace treaty in the region.

Hogg was speaking at the airport this morning before leaving for London after a four-day visit to Lebanon during which he held talks with senior officials on bilateral relations and cooperation, especially supporting Lebanon's development and reconstruction process. In this respect, Hogg explained that the British Government can do many basic things to provide economic facilities to Lebanon and that it encourages the return of foreign investment to that country, especially by British companies.

LF Leader Ja'ja' Indicted for 1992 Murder

NC1010140394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut investigating judge 'Abdallah Bitar issued an indictment today in the case of

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the murder of Dr. Ilyas al-Zayik in al-Ashrafiyah in 1992. On the basis of the Penal Law's clause 542 and Clause 72 of the Weapons Law, Bitar recommended the death penalty for [leader of the Lebanese Forces, LF] Samir Ja'ja', Ghassan Antoine Tuma, Antonius Ilyas Ilyas—known as Antonius 'Ubayd—Raymond Yusuf Jurjus, and Rafiq Ghalib Sa'adah.

This is the third death penalty recommended for Samir Ja'ja' following two earlier indictments for bombing Sayyidat al-Najat Church and assassinating Liberal Party Leader Dany Sham'un.

Hizballah, Amal Warn of 'Explosion' Due to Economy

NC1010143494 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the south, Hizballah and the Amal Movement issued a statement at noon today and warned the Lebanese Government of an imminent huge explosion which threatens a comprehensive national catastrophe in case the economic crisis continues. At a coordination meeting they held in Tyre, the two sides discussed the economic problems the citizens are suffering from and demanded a radical solution to the current economic crisis.

With regard to security in the south, the Islamic Resistance declared its responsibility for detonating an explosive device on the Saff al-Hawa'-Bint Jubayl triangle east of al-Tiri town in the eastern sector, killing or injuring the members of an Israeli patrol that was passing through the area, according to the statement. The Israeli forces responded by raking the outskirts of Shaqra, Haddathah, and Bra'shit.

In its turn, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] artillery from its positions in Zummarayya this morning shelled the area of Libbaya, Jabal al-Dahr, and Yuhmur in the western al-Biqa' without inflicting any casualties. The SLA also blocked off the main road between al-Hasbani-Zummarayya, while another group raked this area with gunfire.

The Israeli forces opened fire on Wadi al-Saluqi and Wadi al-Nafhah in the western and central sectors, while Israeli planes flew over the contact lines and the sea and broke the sound barrier.

Deputy Prime Minister al-Murr Goes to Damascus

NC0910123594 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Michel al-Murr, Deputy Prime Minister and interior minister, left for Damascus this morning for talks with Syrian officials,including Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi. He is expected back in Beirut this evening.

Security Forces Force Rioters From University

NC1110065694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Internal Security Forces General Directorate has released a statement explaining the incidents that occurred at the American University of Beirut [AUB] campus yesterday. It said that students staged a sit-in inside the campus in protest over the rise in university fees. Other individuals joined the students and stirred up riots and disturbances against public order. They attacked the AUB security personnel and some of them tried to disarm the Internal Security Forces personnel in charge of guarding the AUB. Groups then stormed the main building housing the president's office and tried to break their way into the offices. The Beirut police commander proceeded to the scene at the head of a police force. He tried to reach an understanding with the crowds, but they became more agitated and hurled stones and empty bottles at the security forces, injuring a number of personnel. The forces exercised self-restraint and negotiations were held between AUB officials and representatives of the crowds until evening, but without any positive results.

The crowds grew more agitated and the riots escalated, posing a direct threat to public order and security. Then the AUB president requested the Beirut police commander to intervene to preserve security and public order and protect the central administration building after an attempt to storm it. The security forces vacated the rioters from the administration building. The stampede that ensued caused minor injuries and confusion among some rioters and security personnel.

Deputy Refutes Statement

NC1110075194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Deputy Najah Wakim has expressed regret at the Internal Security Forces Directorate's statement on the clash that occurred between American University of Beirut [AUB] students protesting a rise in fees and security forces personnel. He said that the statement is far from the truth and that no student stormed any office or hurled stones or empty bottles. In a statement to the Voice of Lebanon, he said that AUB President Dr. Samir Magdisi stressed that he did not ask the security forces to make the students vacate the campus. [passage omitted]

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Government Reacts to Reports of Iraqi Troop Movements

JN0810192394 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1836 GMT Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source has stated the following:

The Syrian Arab Republic is following with great interest and concern reports on Iraqi military deployment on the borders with Kuwait and the tension that may arise in the entire Arab homeland because of this deployment, which threatens further divisions in the Arab ranks and brings back memories of the tragedy of the Iraqi Army's invasion of the State of Kuwait in August 1990 and the serious consequences, from which the Arab homeland in general, and the Iraqi people in particular, are still suffering.

Out of the Syrian Arab Republic's keenness for the Arab national security and the integrity and unity of the State of Kuwait, and out of its sympathy with the Iraqi people's pains, it urges the Iraqi regime to stop this serious escalation as soon as possible.

Secretary of State Christopher Arrives in Damascus

Received by al-Shar'

JN1110102294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian Ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Asad Receives Christopher, Ross

JN1110130494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and U.S. Middle East Peace Coordinator Dennis Ross at al-Rawdah Palace at 1130 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al- Mu'allim, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross attended the meeting.

Mr. Christopher arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to Syria. Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus welcomed him upon arrival.

In a statement to the Syrian News Agency on arrival at Damascus International Airport, Mr. Christopher expressed his pleasure at visiting Damascus. He said: I am glad to be in Damascus to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He added: We are determined to facilitate the peace process and extend every possible help to push it forward. We are seriously moving toward achieving peace in this region. I am encouraged by the serious efforts on which both parties are concentrating. I will do my best to achieve that. He praised the efforts made by the Syrian foreign minister during his stay in the United States in order to give the peace efforts a stron, push. He stressed that his country will continue its efforts to achieve peace.

Al-Asad Satisfied With al-Shar's U.S. Visit

JN0910192394 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and heard a report from him about the UN General Assembly meetings and the activities carried out by the Syrian Arab delegation.

The report also tackled the meetings held by the minister with ranking U.S. officials, led by President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who emphasized the U.S. commitment to realize comprehensive peace in the region based on the principles agreed on for the peace process.

President al-Asad expressed his satisfaction with this report.

Former Special Forces Commander Freed After Questioning

NC1010193194 Paris AFP in English 1824 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 10 (AFP)—The former commander of Syria's special forces who was sacked for military indiscipline early August has been released after questioning, informed sources said Monday [10 October].

No charge was brought against General 'Ali Haydar, who was held on the orders of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and he has freedom of movement. But he has not returned to his post, the sources said.

He was seen walking freely in a Damascus street on Saturday.

Haydar was replaced by General 'Ali Habib who commanded Syrian troops in the U.S.-led international force which ousted Iraq from Kuwait in the January-February 1991 Gulf war, they said.

The special forces are an elite corps of the Syrian Army and are estimated to be made up of 10,000 to 15,000 men.

After he was fired, Haydar was taken in for questioning under the supervision of General 'Ali Duba, head of Syria's military intelligence.

Sources said his dismissal and interrogation had no political dimension and were linked only to disciplinary matters.

Haydar played a leading role in suppressing an uprising by the Muslim Brotherhood in Hamah in February 1982, and fought against the Israeli army when it invaded Lebanon in the same year.

He comes from the village of Hillat Ara in the Alawite mountains in northwest Syria.

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India

Government Expresses Concern Over Gulf Situation

BK0910155094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has expressed concern over the recent developments in the Gulf region. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that New Delhi hopes that no postures will be adopted in the Gulf which could be construed as a threat to the territorial integrity of any state in the region.

Ministers Meet With U.S. Official on Pakistan

BK1010160594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India today asked the United States to persuade Pakistan not to stop the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. New Delhi is of the view that while the dissidents' participation in the election process is necessary, external support to derail the move should stop. This was conveyed to the visiting U.S. assistant secretary of state, Ms. Robin Raphel, when she called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, in New Delhi.

Mr. Bhatia expressed New Delhi's regret that its offer of bilateral talks with Pakistan had been rebuffed at different levels. India is ready to talk to Pakistan any time, but Islamabad was not allowing people-to-people contact with India on the pretext of the plague situation. It was made out that the situation is out of control, which is totally false. The two sides also discussed international terrorism and its effect on the world community.

U.S. Restrictions on Import of Skirts Protested

BK0810090794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has protested to the U.S. Administration against new restrictions on the import of Indian traditional skirts. The Textiles Ministry sources said in New Delhi three days ago the U.S. Administration had issued a directive to its customs authorities not to allow Indian skirts having elastic waist bands as they do not conform to the prescribed norms. The sources said these guidelines are not in conformity with the recent understanding reached between the two countries. The sources said New Delhi is again seeking consultations with the concerned U.S. authorities on the issue.

Curfew on Bangalore Lifted; TV Ends Urdu Newscast

BK0910092594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed last night for the second day in the violence-affected areas of Bangalore city has been lifted. The city police commissioner, Mr. Kodandaramaiah, told our Bangalore correspondent this morning that normalcy is returning in the areas and no violent incident has been reported since yesterday evening. Eighteen people have lost their lives in violence following protest by Kannada activists against telecast of Urdu news bulletin on Bangalore Doordarshan [TV station].

The chief minister, Mr. Veerappa Moily, has said the center has agreed to reschedule the Urdu news bulletin from today in the interest of law and order. Talking to newsmen in Bangalore last night, he said the bulletin scheduled this evening will be stopped and the revised timing will be announced later. Earlier in the evening, Mr. Moily held a series of meetings with a cross section of people, including representatives from the minority community, to find a solution to the crisis. He said the representatives of Kannada organizations have said that they were not against Urdu language as such, but were opposed to the clashing of the time slot earmarked for Kannada programs.

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Set To Go in Oct

BK1010050594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The second Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV D-2, will be launched around the middle of this month. Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, said that the exact launch date and time will be announced soon. The launch vehicle will put into polar orbit an 870-kilogram remote sensing satellite. This launch will put India in the club of the few countries that have the capability to launch a 1,000-kg class satellite.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon

LD0810170394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1127 GMT 7 Oct 94

[Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 7 October; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

What I will talk about today is fairness in distribution and trade, which is one of our important topical issues, and which is one of the government's important plans for the future. [passage omitted]

We had previously made promises to the people about fair distribution and trade control. I have declared many times and said that our priority in the First Plan is

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production, and that after bringing production to the desired level our priority is fair distribution.

In our view we have passed the first stage; we have made production prosperous. [passage omitted]

We have said many times, we have warned and advised, distributors that when the time comes we would deal with them, that they should prepare themselves for fair distribution. [passage omitted]

It is felt, in recent weeks and in the latter part of the last six months, that disruptive elements have decided to take advantage of the few months' grace period. The debates in the Majlis about the price of energy and fuel have been used as an excuse for certain people to think that if the cost of energy were to rise and then have an effect on the price of commodities later, they should make their profits today while the cost of energy is the same as in the past. Or they thought of hoarding or reckless profiteering. In other words, it was a preemptive measure, the effects of which you are witnessing in certain cases.

That move, in my opinion, stems to a degree from the mischievous acts of our foreign enemies, because their propaganda methods are well-known. Under these circumstances our enemies decided to take advantage of the situation. When one hears from foreign radios—especially that Satan's blowhorn, the BBC—one sees how anxious they had become to take advantage of the situation to weaken the revolution.

That untimely move by those disruptive elements in the market and the leeches, who think they could fill their pockets in a few months with unfair and easy-come earnings, brought forward the other aspect, which was not ready yet, that is the social aspect.

The biggest and most important precondition to the success of the market control plan is public opinion and the society's readiness; for the people to welcome it. [passage omitted]

Today, I am giving a serious warning to those who are, in any way, involved in the process of destroying the fair environment of transactions. We do not wish to bully the shopkeepers, the wholesalers and manufacturers. The government's policy is the same as the one emphasized over the past five years. It is a policy of adjustment. That is, the government's policy, which is endorsed by the Majlis, and especially the esteemed leader, is for commodity prices to be realistic ones; except for cases where the government gives subsidies and maintains prices at a certain level. The rest is based on both commodities and prices being realistic. [passage omitted]

Our first advise to honorable tradesmen, merchants and manufacturers is to be fair and also be watchful of the society's situation.

While, as you can see, so many satans all over the world intend to intimidate us and plan to deal us fatal blows, we cannot ignore public opinion. We cannot turn a blind eye to factors which create dissatisfaction among the people. This is a principle maintained throughout the revolution and shall remain in force today, too.

Those gentlemen should, therefore, realize that the matter is serious. As the head of the government, I shall stand behind and pursue this matter with the same determination and energy as when participating in the war against Iraq; in the original struggle [the revolution]; at the time of terminating the war; at the time of taking steps to rebuild the ruins of the war; on the policy of adjustment,; or on reforming the structure of the system. [Crowd chants God is great, Khamene'i is the leader] [passage omitted]

What I ask you, the people, is that you should be active in this matter and give your support. In the first place, when we have announced prices, please do not buy goods at high prices. If you come across profiteering cooperate with the government and do not buy. If you must buy, then buy and report it to government inspectors. Inform them with proof and in writing, so that we could investigate and that the officers could do their job. If that coordination exists between consumers and the government we could solve it very easily.

Another point is that the mass media, the Voice and Vision, newspapers, and platforms, should inform the public; explain correctly; tell the public the truths; create a correct culture for the people. [passage omitted]

I say here. This is a warning. Before our officers visit you officially, investigate, issue fines and dish out punishment, my expectation is that my warning will have an effect, that there will not be a lot of bother for you and us, and that we would be the overseers of your speedy and correct move.

But, God forbid, if this warning is not effective, in the near future, you will see that the issue of market control and establishing social justice in commerce is a very serious Islamic issue. [crowd chants "God is great; Khamene'i is the leader"]

Second Sermon

LD0710153194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1214 GMT 7 Oct 94

[Second Friday sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 7 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

On international issues, we have a number of important topics. One is the question of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, domestic disputes have created insecurity in the peaceful country of Azerbaijan, a country which is at war and whose people need to be united. We are happy to see that

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the riots have subsided and the hard-working Government of Azerbaijan has managed to take control of the situation and continues to serve the people, a government that should fight a war, a country one-fifth of which is occupied by foreigners. Such political and factional moves and power struggles are indeed unwise and we hope that such things will not happen there again.

The question of Afghanistan is another issue which is very painful to us. Muslims are at each others' throats, slaughtering one another like sheep, and spilling each others' blood. They managed to kick out that hellish force of communism; but they are so weak-willed and immature that they are now aiming their weapons at one another, destroying their own homes, killing their own wives and children, which is something that even foreigners do not do to other countries. They are constantly at war, busy fighting and destroying. May God give them the intelligence to stop the fratricide and listen to our advice and somehow manage their country and compensate for so much destruction.

Fortunately one can see clear horizons in Tajikistan, which shows that they have more sense than the Afghans. We hope that they contie their alertness and do not allow domestic blood to be spilled as in Afghanistan.

One of the bitter issues which we have had to face was the hasty and ignorant action of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council members. Out of the blue and without preamble they announced the lifting of sanctions against Israel. They suddenly ended the ban on trade with Israel, imposed by the Arab countries some 40 years ago. They did that without getting any kind of concession [from Israel]. That was indeed a sign of their ignorance, imprudence, and subservience. I cannot describe it any other way. A person may engage in a deal, giving something, getting something, some dialogue taking place, now suddenly six big and independent countries sit together and make such a decision. I heard that even the Israelis were surprised at that childish generosity.

Fortunately, the Arab League stood against them and condemned the action and announced its disagreement with it, but, in any case, they committed an act of desecration and an abominable deed. I think such a situation is the outcome of an act of mischief by the United States and Britain in particular. They injected them with the idea that Iran is a threat. Iran, that even during the [Iran-Iraq] war when it could see that those countries' money, weapons, ports, propaganda, and airspace was in the service of Iraq and against Iran, did not take the slightest action which would damage their stability because we do not want to make the region insecure, despite the fact that we had the right to do that then. They saw the experience of the eight years of war and I do not understand how they are still affected by propaganda.

The Americans wish to pick their pockets, they want to buy their oil cheap, and not give them anything. And the little they give, they take back in return for weapons that are of no use to them. They have come here and painted Iran—a country which has shown them tolerance and brotherly love for 15 years—as an enemy for them. And the future is the same. The security of the southern Persian Gulf states is very important to us. We would never dream of destabilizing them.

They [the Americans] falsely say that Iran is buying arms, doing this and that. Our purchases and sales figures are known; they are not one-tenth of their purchases. They fool those poor people to sell them useless arms on the one hand and they buy their oil cheaply on the other hand, and then force them to keep issuing statements against us about the islands and so on. And nowadays when they go to the United Nations, if in the past they used to talk against Israel, they now talk against Iran. And they pay extortion to Israel. And then they say that Iran alone will be upset. What do you gain by Iran alone being upset about the oppression of the Palestinian nation? Why are you not upset? I am surprised at the poor understanding and political sense which one sees in such decisions. You are Iran's brothers; we are your brothers; we are good neighbors; we have so much trade and comings and goings with each other. Why do you behave in such a way that they should come and bully you like that?

Without doubt, your nations would object to you making such a big concession to Israel without any reason or concessions. Why? What need do you have to lift trade sanctions against Israel? Israel does not need you. All the European Common Market is open to Israel. It is treating it as its own place. They just want to cheat you, place a wedge between you and your nations, create a rift between you and sincere Muslims of the world.

It was a bad thing to do. It was not justified. God willing, they will realize themselves. I declare to them that no matter how much they want to extort from you in return for removing the threat of Iran, it is all a lie. You should know that Iran has never posed a threat to you and has always stretched the hand of brotherhood toward you. [crowd chants "God is great; Khamene'i is the leader; death to America and others"] [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Praises Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Prices

NC0810122494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the Tehran Friday prayers yesterday. In the first sermon, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani elaborated on the economic situation in the country. Recounting the government's success in the field of production in the course of the first 5-Year Plan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for combating profiteering as one of the priorities of the second development plan.

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In this part of his address, he deemed the presence of a social and psychological scope, an abundance of goods, and the existence of laws and institutions as essential for initiating a serious campaign against high prices.

According to him, destructive elements have capitalized on this period when there are only a few months before the second [5-year] plan is to be implemented and this motivates the government to postpone the implementation. That which the president mentioned in the course of the Friday sermon marks the commencement of a new phase of economic reconstruction, especially the reorganization of the relation between the market and distribution control.

The fact that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks immediately had the endorsement of the great leader indicates the correctness of the latest decision of the head of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his message to the president, the leader of the Islamic Revolution expressed his support for his remarks and declared that fighting high prices is a campaign against double cruelty. He called on the nation and the judicial and legislative bodies to cooperate with the government in this important matter.

In view of the fact that we are on the threshold of the implementation of the second development plan, and we have attained dazzling success in the field of production and revamping of the industrial and production units, a multifaceted jehad for combating high prices and disarming the exploiters and unscrupulous individuals who indulge in economic malpractice has evolved into an irrefutable need.

It is at this stage that market control can result in continued economic success of the government in the field of production. The reality to which the president alluded is that a decisiveness in holy defense should be complemented by a decisiveness in the all-around reconstruction of the country.

Accordingly, one can expect that in the current sensitive circumstances, in proportion with the sensitivity of the economic reforms, penalties will be envisaged for the violators. The remarks by our president five weeks after the exhortations of the great leader have been propounded on behalf of the esteemed government. In Government Week, the Vali-ye Amr-e Muslimin [Guardian of the Muslims' cause] referred to the high prices and the pressure on the lesser income groups, and called on the government to formulate a long-term program and some immediate measures. He stated that programs should be based on the fact that the weaker and backward strata in society should be catered to, in every way possible.

During this meeting, the leader of the Islamic society described the government as the manifestation of the nation's power and said that this should not be undermined. Those who wish to do so are in fact undermining our national authority. One of the manifestations of the government's authority is its insistence on adopting correct decisions. Officials should have the final decision for reforming the distribution system and for shattering the rising price spiral categorically in order to safeguard national authority. The people have also proved that they will not waver in their support of important national decisions and in safeguarding national authority.

Foreign Ministry on Kuwaiti-Iraqi 'Tension'

LD0910223094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In wake of the recent tension between Kuwait and Iraq, a spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry has said that the spread of tension in the sensitive Persian Gulf region serves the interests of the enemies of Islam and the enemies of the people of the region.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammadi, who was replying to questions put to him by the Islamic Republic of Iran's news agency, stated: We believe that, essentially, making territorial claims against another country should stop completely in the region so that stability and security may be restored there. He added: We saw how the territorial claims against Kuwait prompted war in the region and gave rise to crisis and divisions throughout Islamic countries. We also saw how this enabled the regime occupying Jerusalem to benefit most from the situation in a short space of time and to display its usurping presence in the hearts of Islamic countries, after approximately 40 years. The Arab countries of the Persian Gulf littoral were prepared to offer humiliating concessions and lift some of their trade embargoes against the Zionist regime.

Mr. Mohammadi pointed to the difficulties faced by the Iraqi people as a result of the sanctions. He said: It requires a particular and legal endeavor to eliminate the economic problems of the Iraqi people, and the region should take the initiative in this respect.

He added: In order to achieve lasting stability and security in the sensitive Persian Gulf region, problems and differences should be resolved by the countries of the region. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to deploy all its resources to eliminate tension and help resolve regional problems in a peaceful manner.

Iraqi Kurdish Leader Barzani Arrives for Talks

NC0810094394 Paris AFP in English 0846 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 8 (AFP)—The leader of a main Kurdish faction in northern Iraq, Mas'ud Barzani, has arrived in Iran for talks at the foreign ministry, Kurdish sources said Saturday [8 October].

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Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), embarked Friday on his first visit to Tehran since the Kurdish uprising in northern Iraq in March 1991.

Ties between Iran and Iraqi Kurds have been strained on charges that Tehran supports the Moslem fundamentalist Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL) in northern Iraq and that it has launched cross-border attacks on Iranian Kurdish rebels.

But relations between the KDP and Tehran have improved as Barzani's fighters have sided with KIL against the other main Iraqi Kurdish group, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan led by Jalal Talabani.

Hundreds of people have been killed in fighting for control of northern Iraq since May. But Iranian sources said Barzani was expected to leave here for Paris "in a few days" to sign a French-sponsored "peace accord" with Talabani.

The Iranian daily Kayhan warned Barzani on Thursday against falling into the "trap set by France to dismember Iraq."

"Both Barzani and Talabani should know that Iran and other neighbors of Iraq are sensitive about the territorial integrity of Iraq and will fight any plans by the colonialists to divide the country," it said.

Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control since the area was established with backing from the US-led coalition which drove Iraqi occupying forces out of Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War.

Iran, Turkey and Syria all have Kurdish minorities of their own and have been cautious in their support for Iraqi Kurds out of concern over a possible break-up of neighboring Iraq.

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